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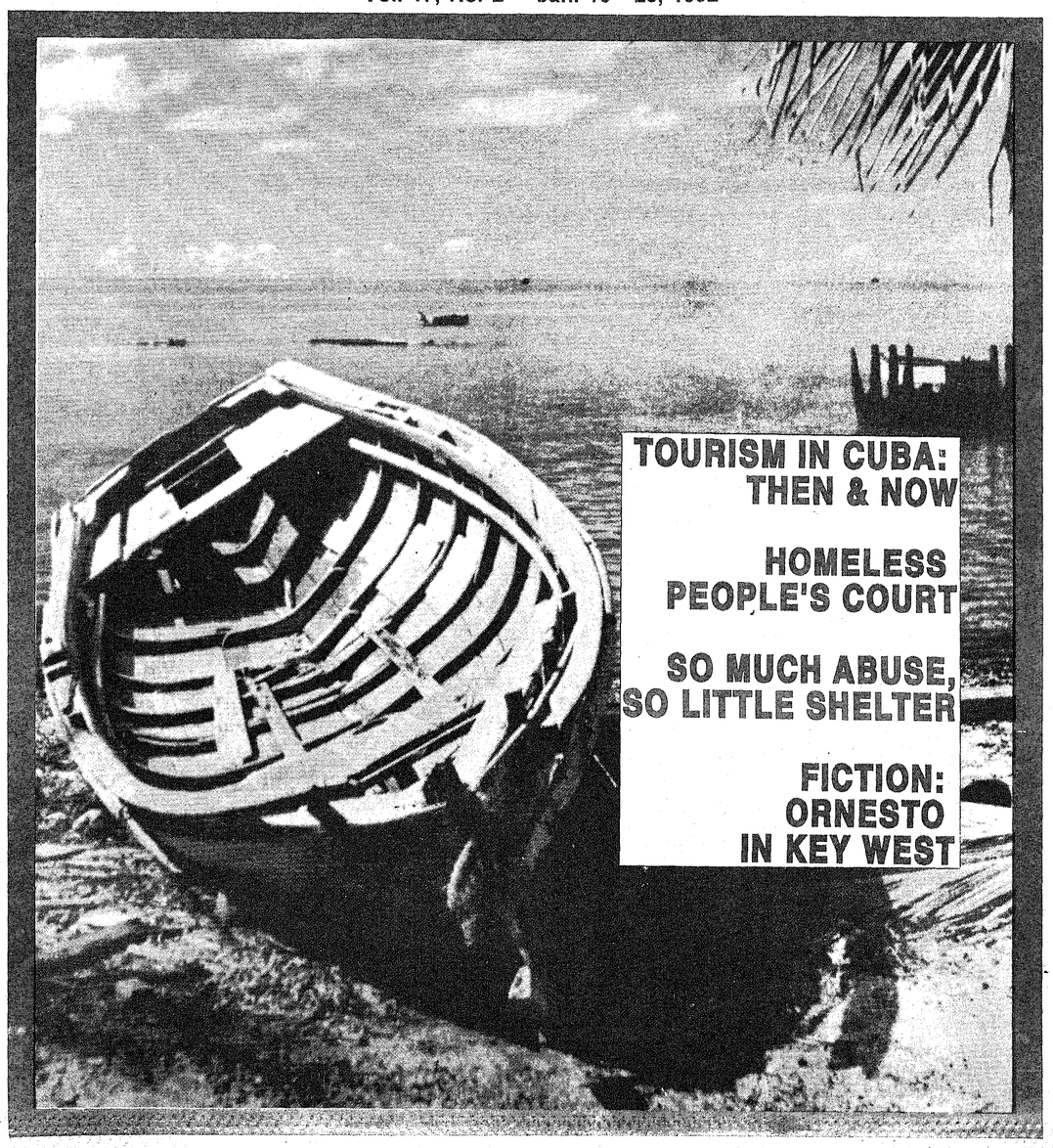
solares hill

FREE

Vol. 17, No. 2 • Jan. 16 - 29, 1992



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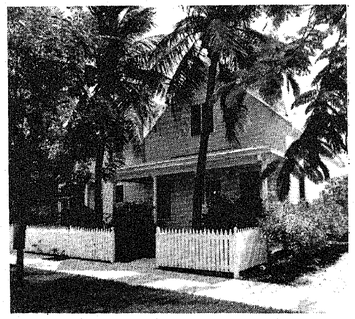

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Whatever Happened...?

As political events in the former Soviet Union and in Cuba unfold at ever-accelerating rates, the questions Key West businesspeople have been asking for years take on a new pertinence. When will Fidel Castro fall? we wonder. And when Cuba opens, will it hurt our island's tourist business, or will we cash in?

With the Cuban government unlikely to support an auto ferry from Key West, the main jumping points to Havana may well become the Miami International Airport and the hydrofoil slips at the Port of Miami. Locally, recent ponderance about harboring hydrofoils at Pier B and discussion of an elegant Key West-Havana cruise ship may be simply much ado about nothing.

While it is difficult to prepare for an event—the opening of U.S. trade relations with Cuba—which may happen soon, or not for some time, Key West needs to plunge head-first into its tourist homework.

Today a significant percentage of Key West tourism comes from in-state visitors. With a new—and relatively unused—tropical island seemingly ready to open, we need to be prepared to lose some of our Dade County and South Florida visitors. (If you lived in Miami and wanted to get away for a few days, and the choice was Key West again or Havana, what would you do?)

On the other hand, there might be a new cruise-ship route available: a week-long Miami-Havana-Key West circuit, which could help replace the lost revenues.

Also, by becoming part of triple- or quadruple-city destination trips, Key West stands to greatly increase its international tourist trade of free-spending Japanese and Europeans. Perhaps a portion of the tax dollars already spent by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council to promote the Keys in these countries should be invested in language lessons for our service-industry people.

Why spend valuable advertising funds on Japanese television commercials when practically the only places they can communicate are Yo Sake and Kyu Shu? A few of the more enterprising Duval Street ticket sellers have made the effort to learn some basics (*schnorkeling, da?*), but, by and large, it is difficult for foreign-speaking tourists get directions, ask questions, order food—in short, to spend their money.

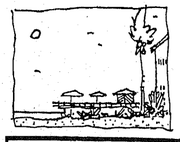
As Key West joins the ranks of international tourism destinations, it's time to take stock of what's happening to our island as a result of tourists and to determine how we can best preserve our lifestyle and still continue our pursuit of the almighty dollar (or yen or mark).

These questions affect every islander. The process of finding answers cannot be left solely to another city or county task force or to a self-appointed Chamber-of-Commerce committee. We must all become aware and involved.

Otherwise, a few years down the road, we may be asking ourselves: "Whatever happened ... ?"

Ann Boese

The cover photograph was taken by Harry James Mitchell, a local artist, in the 1960s.



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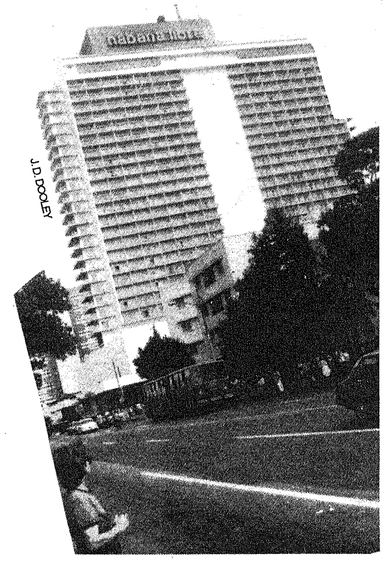
Tourism in Cuba: Then & Now



By J.D. Dooley

Close enough to be accessible, yet distant enough to be alluring: Cuba was the perfect location for America's playground in the 1950s. Pleasant year-round temperatures with hot days and balmy nights set against an exotic backdrop certainly added to the attraction. But perhaps the most powerful factor was that Cuba was located outside United States boundaries, where any number of hedonistic activities were not only possible but probable.

High stakes poker, all-night parties and gorgeous women were all within a short stroll of the Prado. Hotels such as the Capri, Havana Hilton and Nacional offered gambling, drinking and live shows nightly.

In 1957's Cuba you could check out of the homespun values of the Eisenhower era and into all-out decadence and self-indulgence. Reputed South Florida crime boss Meyer Lansky provided the action, and Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista provided the country. It is said that anything was available in Havana in 1958. Anything. But the story of tourism in Cuba begins earlier than the now famous Batista era.

Prohibition Pushes Some U.S. Businesses South

When Cuba received independence from Spain the world barely noticed. At first the United States exhibited a half-hearted interest in the small Caribbean nation, but it wasn't until the 1920s that Americans were seized with a fascination that would change Cuban history.

When nationwide prohibition put a damper on the activities of American pleasure seekers, the pleasure merchants moved south. Entrepreneurs from the states began to elevate Cuba, or at least Havana, into the 20th century. First came the infrastructure. Then electric power, phone systems, railroads, and, finally, hotels and casinos.

Born in Key West of Cuban parents, Horatio Moreno recalls an event on October 28, 1927. In heavily accented English he explains, "My father said, 'Son I am going to take you to a very historical event." And he took me to the Key West airport to watch the first Pan Am flight to Havana take off."

A new era was born in Cuba. A small newly independent war-torn island nation, that most Americans couldn't locate on a map was suddenly thrust into the limelight of tourism and spoon fed to opportunistic American industrialists.

During the 30-year process, the Cuban government changed hands numerous times. Still American businessmen continued to pour millions into the economy. By late 1958 U.S. businesses has over $1 billion invested in Cuba, the Cuban government had over $100 million invested, and both Amer-

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ican businessmen and Cuban officials were getting rich. Meanwhile, people outside of Havana lived in thatched-roof dirt-floored *bohios* and worked in the fields.

Castro Gains Political Momentum

By the autumn of 1958 change was in the air. Fidel Castro, who until this time had only been a faceless voice on short-wave radio to most of Havana, was gaining political momentum with his July 26 rebel movement. He left the relative safety of the Sierra Maestra mountains for the plains of central Cuba. Batista, fearing a coup from within his own forces, never mustered enough armament to halt the rag-tag band of rebels advancing on Havana.

What was the U.S. government to do?

Should America officially support Batista, an oppressive dictator, who was clearly providing a haven to mafioso-based enterprises, or Castro, who spoke of complete socialization of American-owned industries. Pro-Batista factions had begun to whisper of communist tendencies within the July 26 rebel forces, and many American-owned central Cuban industries had already been seized by the rebels.

Perhaps, some diplomats thought, the U.S. should back a third party whom they could better monitor. All Washington wanted, at this point, was governmental stabilization and the protection of legitimate American-based businesses.

In a fervor of diplomatic activity, the U.S. finally decided to wait and see before announcing an endorsement.

On *Año Nuevo* 1959 Batista resigned his post and fled the country with his family and closest aids aboard two *Aerovias Q* DC-4s. Batista owned *Aerovias Q* airlines, which ran daily from Key West to Havana. Having been warned that he would be less-than-welcome in the U.S., however, the deposed dictator headed for the Dominican capitol of Santo Domingo. Reportedly, Meyer Lansky made a similar move a short time later with his gambling enterprises. But the Dominican Republic never enjoyed the popularity of Havana.

For a time, after Castro changed his address to Havana, the tourism industry in Cuba continued to survive—but just barely. Attempting to keep tourism alive, Intur, the forerunner of Cubanacan (the official tourist bureau of Cuba), maintained an office in Key West at the San Carlos Institute. In charge of that office from 1959 until it closed for good in 1962 was Cuban-born, Key West-raised former city commissioner José Menendez.

"As in any other tourist center," said Menendez, "my duties were to promote tourism to Cuba. Our slogan was, 'So near but yet so foreign.'

"We had 10 or 12 flights a day and two ferries. Q Airlines would fly you over for $20 roundtrip, plus a $2 tourist tax that was used to build the Key West Airport terminal that we have now."

But near the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, Cuban-American relations were beginning to crumble. The invasion sealed the fate, and tourism in Cuba was no longer available to American citizens.

Thirty Years Later: Back to Tourism

Now 30 years later, Castro is still in power, Pan Am is gone, super powers have crumbled, the Cold War is over, and Cuba is returning to the industry that created the country three-quarters of a century ago —tourism.

According to Prensa Latina, the country's official news agency, Cuba took in $500 million in tourist revenue last year, and the push to continued is on. By mid-1992, provided Cuba survives its current crisis, Cubanacan, expects tourism to be the country's primary economic base.

Attracting tourists from Canada, France, Spain, Latin America and Eastern Europe, Cuba plans to build 3000 hotel rooms each year for the next several years.

J.D. DOOLEY

AMERICAN: Goods from the United States for sale in a Cuban dollar store.

While *Solares Hill* was in Cuba, a film crew was taping picturesque footage of the Marina Hemingway tourist community for a Japanese commercial, which is aimed at luring that lucrative market to Cuba. As popular as Key West is with Japanese tourists, the task may not be difficult.

Japanese who were visiting Cuba, however, complained that the many plane connections required to travel from Japan were complicated and bothersome. It's a problem Cubanacan says it will quickly address.

Now, daily flights aboard Cubana Airlines to Havana's José Marti Airport (formerly known as Rancho Boyeros Airport) are available from Toronto, Montreal, Madrid, Berlin, Paris, Cologne, Milan, Kingston, Mexico City and 15 other international cities.

Joint Ventures Are Encouraged

The key to Cuba's new tourist economy lies in foreign investments. Today joint ventures are not only allowed but actually sought by the Cuban government. Like those of many Latin American countries, the Cuban government retains at least 51-percent ownership of investment enterprises, and profits are split based on actual controlled percentages.

In 1982 the Cuban government changed its national law to allow for joint ventures. Several countries were quick to take advantage of the situation. Some, such as Canada, kept a low profile so not as to disturb relations with Washington because of the strict U.S. trade ban in effect. Still, according to Prensa Latina, by 1990 Cuba has logged more than 100 commercial partners.

For instance, the Sol Palermas hotel in Varadero, a joint Spanish-Cuban venture has been in operation almost two years. The 490-room luxury resort, located on Cuba's most notable beach, is the largest hotel construction project since 1958. Through the first year, the hotel maintained an 81-percent occupancy rate and accommodated 38,000 guests paying about $100 per night.

Castro said the Cuban govemment has little experience in resort management.

In a recent speech, Castro said the Cuban government has little experience in resort management and is relying on guidance from foreign investors. The Sol Palmeras is operated under Spanish administration with Cuban employees.

Today there are 20 Cubanacan tourist hotels listed in Havana. Prices run from $14 per night at the humble Bruzon to $128 at the lavish Nacional. The casinos are gone, but the rooms are comfortable and the bars and shows are in full swing nearly 24 hours a day.

The moderately priced Capri is located at 21 Street and Avenue N in central downtown Havana. The room rates run from $37.50 nightly off season to $56 during peak season, which is December 1 through April 30 and July 1 through August 31. A short walk from any downtown activity, the hotel was considered one of the finest in the late '50s.

Today the Capri boasts clean decent rooms, two restaurants, a show room and lobby bar. The rooftop pool and bar offers a spectacular view of Havana harbor to the east and of Miramar toward Barlovento to the west.

Accustomed to U.S. hotels, guests who were checked into the Capri while *Solares Hill* was in Cuba were slightly disappointed. The public restrooms had no toilet seats, and service was a little slow. But, as Castro said in a recent speech, these problems have been identified and Cuba is working with its foreign partners to correct them.

Tourism: Tops on the Cuban Agenda

In a recent speech Castro said the tourist trade was paramount on the Cuban agenda

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and that every resource was going into promotion and construction of tourist-related businesses. A stroll around Havana indicates they are serious. New hotel construction and restoration projects are visible on nearly every street in the downtown section of central Havana.

Tourists have preference on supplies such as gasoline and food. While public bus routes, on which many Cubans rely, have been cut drastically, tourists have free reign at the pumps for the Havanauto rental cars. Rentals are available at every tourist hotel through Cubanacan. Late model Nissans for the budget conscious, Toyota jeeps for those with a mind to explore outside of the city, and Mercedes may be rented. Nissans start at around $50 a day.

Discussion in Key West of Cuba opening to Americans usually includes the subject of a Key West-Havana ferry. According to Cubanacan, which has controlled tourism through several Cuban regimes, a ferry would not be supported by the Cuban government. The Cubans figure that they stand to make more money renting cars than allowing a ferry to deposit American cars on Cuban shores.

Also, somewhere in the back of his mind, Castro probably remembers that many of the arms smuggled into Cuba during the revolution entered the country on the Key West ferry. Reportedly, the ferry was a hot bed of smuggling and black market activity. The Cuban government today would most likely prevent a repeat of the process.

In the tourist restaurants and shops, American goods are available at Key West prices. A steak dinner with black beans and rice, potatoes, and a beer at the Habana Libre will set you back about $15. American cigarettes and beer, along with nearly every item in the states, can be found in the tourist stores; the latest fashions from Paris and Milan grace the clothing shops.

Reportedly, the American goods enter the country through companies in Canada and Mexico. *Solares Hill* was able to photograph several tons of American goods off-loaded from marine containers into a warehouse bearing the sign Exporcanada. When approached, however, the workers said they had no idea how the goods enter the country. Some of the boxes were marked from Toronto, but there is no listing for Exporcanada in Toronto or Havana. Cubanacan, on the other hand, is listed in Toronto and Mexico City.

And the Effect on Key West?

How will the Cuban push toward tourism affect Key West?

It stands to reason that anyone opening a hotel anywhere could possibly affect Key West. It also stands to reason that the Germans, Spanish, French and Canadians would not sink a billion dollars into Cuban resorts unless they were reasonably certain that they had a tourist market. But a direct effect on Key West would be greatest if the U.S. government lifted the travel ban.

Under current State Department regulations, U.S. citizens cannot legally spend money in Cuba; direct flights from Miami are available only to diplomats, journalists and those traveling to Cuba to perform research.

Adventurous Americans, however, have found it easy to enter Cuba through Mexico, Jamaica or Canada. Tour companies offer side trips to Cuba from the above countries, and Cuba will not stamp American passports. (The downside to travel of this type is the absence of an American consulate should one become necessary.)

Certainly Cuba would like to tap into the lucrative American tourist trade, but the U.S. government is not likely to lift the travel ban while Castro, whose power base seems to remain intact even in Cuba's current economic crisis, is in power.

The commissioners of both Monroe County and City of Key West have formed independent task forces to study the effects of Cuban tourism, and their reports should be ready early this summer. Unfortunately, the task forces are hampered by the simple fact that no one knows what will happen in Cuba: Castro could fall tomorrow—or 20 years from now.

One certainty, however, is that many other countries are not supportive of the U.S. trade embargo. By the time the embargo is lifted, the opportunities for Key West-Cuban business may have diminished greatly.

A letter from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, which was written by administrative director Sandra Higgs, was read to the county's Free Cuba Committee on January 6. In the letter, Higgs said she believes Key West could be a "jumping board" for tourists heading for Cuba.

But José Menendez, the former Cuban tourism official, sees things differently. He believes that should the travel ban be lifted, Key West would be left behind.

"One time Key West had a ferry to Havana," Menendez said. "It left from the end of Duval Street near where the Pier House is now. The tourists would come to Key West and ferry their automobiles to Havana. Then a man put another ferry on Stock Island. It was bigger, faster and better. No one used the Key West ferry anymore and the city of Key West lost money. Today if Cuba opens, the new ferry will be the Miami airport. This is not 1958, there is no need to come to Key West first anymore."

Whatever the outcome, local politicians and business leaders should be monitoring activities, investigating possibilities and making plans—for better or for worse.

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The (Homeless) People's Court

By Lee Irby

Winter in Key West heralds the onslaught of not only the wealthy snowbirds but also the forlorn variety of the human species —members of the nomadic underclass, aka the homeless. Each day more arrive, their canvas bags stuffed with precious possessions.

A growing number of these homeless arrivees say they are being singled out by local police, who, they say, are implementing an unwritten social policy aimed at clearing the homeless from Paradise's streets.

The Key West Police department denies the charge, maintaining that officers are merely enforcing the law.

The conflict reflects the recession-fueled dilemma of how government should handle the homeless, who are growing in numbers as massive company layoffs and personal bankruptcies increase.

Selective Law Enforcement

The city's open-container ordinance is a sore point for many who call the street home. Last year 13 of Jerry Teal's 23 violations were for being in possession of an open container of alcohol. Top violator is Michael Bowman, who snagged 39 summonses to appear in court, 20 of which were for open containers.

Until August 1989 public consumption of alcoholic beverages—not possession of open containers—was illegal in Key West. Code enforcement officer Gary Addleman said the ordinance was changed "as a result of unruly, offensive behavior due to the open consumption of alcohol."

While some people carrying an open beer up Duval Street are asked to pour it out, others are booked, issued orange jumpsuits, and held in Monroe County's overcrowded jail. In almost all cases a judge sets the incarcerated violators free in order to comply with the federally-imposed cap on jail occupancy.

According to city clerk Josephine Parker, the open-container ordinance wasn't enforced during Fantasy Fest 1991, for example, indicating that those who are not arrested may be tourists.

The "others" are often homeless.

"If you walk down Duval Street with a Rick's cup in your hand, they won't mess with you," said Tom, a homeless man. "But if you're sitting on Smathers in jeans with a beer, and they know you, they'll write you up— even though every tourist has a cooler full of beers."

Ken, another homeless man, verified Tom's assertions. "I've gotten about 50 [violations] in the last three years," he said. "They don't warn me. They just write me up."

Legally, the penalty for violating the open container ordinance, or one of the ordinances that ban sleeping on the beach or in county parks after hours, is a $32 fine.

Most hard-scrabble street dwellers, however, ignore the summons to appear, and do not attend their trials.

Said Ken: "I'm broke. Why go if you can't pay the fine?"

Thus, what began as a simple open container or sleeping in the park violation ends up as a failure to appear in court, and a bench warrant is issued. Jail time looms, and an already overcrowded system is force-fed another legal morsel.

Protesting the Process

Ron "Noodleman" Carter, a gadfly on the local government (who ran unsuccessfully last year for city commissioner), recently mounted a short-lived protest against this process. While most defendants were pleading guilty to possessing an open container or sleeping in the park at arraignment—thereby accepting the $32 fine with no record—Carter began encouraging people to plead "not guilty," which forced the state to put them on trial.

The strategy, says Carter, would gum up the legal process and serve to protest the constitutionality of the law.

But Todd Hornick, a lawyer with the State Attorney's office who prosecutes misdemeanors, and Michael Wheeler, a public defender, both characterized this protest as damaging.

"We'd been treating most people as individuals," said Hornick, "but now they're forcing us to look at them as numbers, and that hurts them. We can't be as flexible. The system is responsive to individuals who are willing to work with it."

Wheeler said that most of his indigent clients were beginning to realize this, and that they preferred the standard "32 withhold" arrangement.

"If you're indigent," he said, "you don't have to pay the fine. You can do community service through the Salvation Army instead. The system has a quality of mercy. Unfortunately, there's not a lot of money for drug or alcohol treatment."

"Policy" Replaces Vagrancy Laws

What is troubling to some, explains a source in the legal arena who wishes to remain anonymous, is that this cycle, when multiplied by the many hundreds of cases heard in Key West, amounts to a de facto social policy on homelessness, replacing the vagrancy statutes which were found to be unconstitutional in 1970.

(Vagrancy laws allowed police to arrest any person who had neither a fixed address nor a job.)

Captain Bill McNeill of the police department denies that the department is focusing on the homeless.

"These are obvious repeat offenders," he said. "We're not singling them out. You can warn a person only so much. Some people choose to lead a lifestyle of excessive consumption."

Gloria Parker of the Salvation Army sees the homeless "lifestyle" as primarily the result of social problems not personal choices.

"Most of [the homeless] just want to be left alone," she said. "They're loners. Some are mentally ill, a lot of them are Vietnam veterans. If you put them in a hotel room, they'd sleep on the floor."

Key West has no shelter for the homeless. Forty to 70 people sleep every night on the sidewalk in front of the Salvation Army.

To alleviate the tensions on the street among the shop owners (who want presentable sidewalks), the police (who enforce the laws) and the street people (who have nowhere to go), many hope the city will open a shelter.

Mayor Dennis Wardlow has called for city government to investigate all the options for setting up such a program, but the results won't be available for some time.

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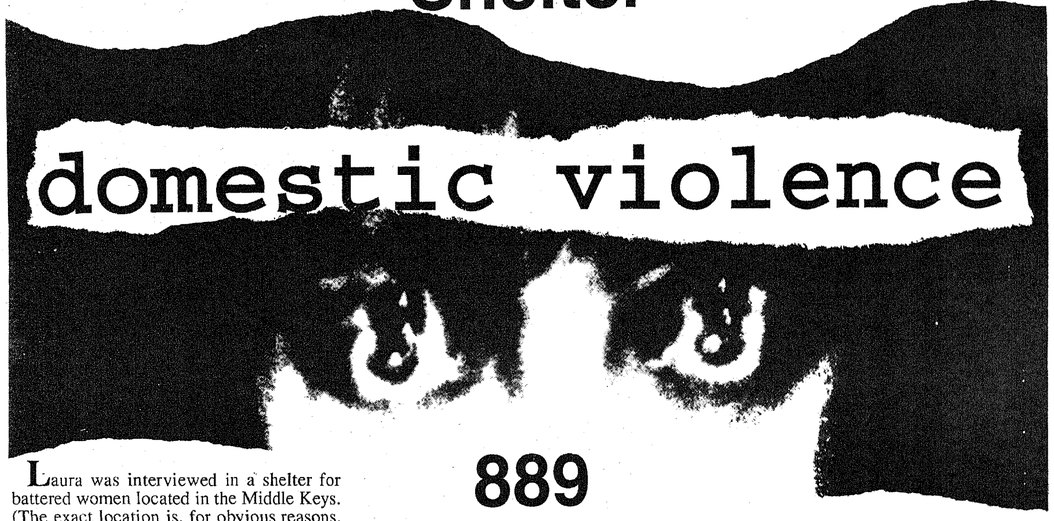

889 Clients

By Brenda Weathers

"What would you like on your sandwich?"

"Mustard."

Laura (not her real name) takes her knife and spreads mustard on a piece of bread.

"Not like that," he screams. "Like this."

He throws the bread across the floor and grabs a bottle of mustard. He squeezes out the mustard onto a new piece of bread in little squiggles. Then he hits Laura across the face with his fist, breaking her nose and spattering blood all over the sandwiches.

Senseless? Yes.

Uncommon? No.

Certainly not uncommon for Laura and countless other women like her, who are victims of domestic violence.

Laura was interviewed in a shelter for battered women located in the Middle Keys. (The exact location is, for obvious reasons, kept secret). She is of slight build, 42-years old and residing in the shelter with her 5-month-old baby boy. Her face is covered with small scars from rounds of abuse. Her little finger has been broken and is a permanently useless crook. She smiles, smokes cigarettes and talks about her 11 years with an abusive spouse.

"It's not just the physical violence," she says, "it's the mental torment as well."

Laura describes a life where nothing she did was right, where she was constantly criticized and made to feel inferior. The violence, which occurred frequently, was part of an atmosphere of blaming, humiliation and tyranny.

Laura says she left her husband many times before. But she always went back—mostly because she didn't have the resources to help herself, nor the self-confidence, nor the support. This time Laura has come to the Domestic Abuse Shelter and is hopeful that things will be different.

Mary (also not her real name) tells another story of abuse. Mary's husband dragged her by her hair into a car, drove her home and began punching her in the abdomen. Eight months pregnant, Mary began to experience severe cramping and pleaded with him to stop. Finally, he allowed her to go to an emergency room. From there safe passage to the shelter was arranged. Mary is physically fine now, but she attends support groups run by the shelter staff.

Laura and Mary, with their horrifying stories of verbal terrorism and physical abuse are not alone. Actual numbers are hard to come by since so much of what is now recognized as domestic violence goes unreported. In 1990, however. the Monroe County Sheriff 's Department responded to 2893 domestic disturbance calls, a number that does not include incidents reported within the City of Key West.

According to Key West Police Department spokesperson Cynthia Edwards, the city's police department, until this month, has not differentiated between domestic abuse calls and any other call involving battery and/or assault. The newly instituted reporting procedure will allow police to separate domestic violence from other types of battery.

The FBI estimates that only 10 percent of domestic abuse is ever reported to police or other authorities. Applying this figure to those reported by the Monroe County Sheriff indicates that there could have been in excess of 30,000 instances of domestic abuse in Monroe County during 1990.

During the same period the domestic abuse shelter provided residential services to 166 women and children and additional services, such as counseling, crisis line and advocacy, to an additional 723.

While these numbers are striking, experts tend to agree that there is now more willingness on the part of a growing number of women to come forward. This is due, in large measure, to the activities of the women's movement in helping women find their voices in a wide range of areas including rape, sexual harassment, domestic abuse, date rape and other issues where women have traditionally remained silent as victims.

Recent changes in the law have also contributed to the growing statistics on domestic violence. Prior to October 1988 only a married woman could file an injunction for a restraining order under the Civil Protection Order. Today anyone living with another person can file for such an injunction as long as there has been a domestic abuse disturbance reported at least once in the last six months.

Until recent times it was the burden of the victim of domestic violence to press charges against her attacker. Women were often terrified to do so, fearing later consequences. Today there is the Preferred Arrest Policy wherein the police can arrest an abuser if there is probable cause. Beginning this month, the police must arrest an abuser if there is evidence of violence or at least one witness.

The police and the judicial system also operate under a No Drop Policy, meaning that charges against a defendant will be prosecuted with or without the willingness of the victim to cooperate.

While women's willingness to speak up and the changes in law enforcement policies have dramatically increased public awareness of domestic violence issues, there is no clear evidence that the rate of such abuse is declining.

. . . only 10% of domestic abuse is reported.

The local shelter provided some general statistics: in the United States a woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped or killed by a male partner than by any other type of assailant; every day four women are beaten to death in the United States; research over the last ten years indicates that women who leave their partners are at a 75 percent greater risk of being killed than those who stay; according to the Surgeon General, 25 percent of all obstetrical patients are abused women.

Experts and researchers both agree that domestic violence is primarily a learned behavior, and that those who abuse have been abused.

The chain is difficult to break.

No one understands this better than Laura. Out on the balcony of the shelter she lights another cigarette and talks about her two sons.

"I don't want them to grow up to be like their father," she says. "If they see him hitting me, then maybe they'll grow up to hit their girlfriends and wives. I would hate for that to happen."

Shelter director Cynthia Ewald feels hopeful for Laura, just as she does for every woman who enters the shelter for help. But, she also knows the problems involved.

According to Ewald, "One of the biggest problems women such as Laura face is the prospect of re-victimization. If they get up enough courage to go out and tell their story and no one pays any attention, or helps them, they're victimized a second time."

Although Ewald says much more is needed in the way of domestic abuse services in the Keys, the shelter does provide a safe and ready access for women who are victims of abuse.

For Key West women, however, the shelter services involve a 50-odd-mile trip, often made under difficult or secretive circumstances. A few years back there were several "safe houses" in Key West, but these have closed for lack of adequate funding.

Key West victims of domestic violence can educate themselves about full range of shelter services by calling 294-0824. An outreach worker stationed in Key West will make all appropriate arrangements.

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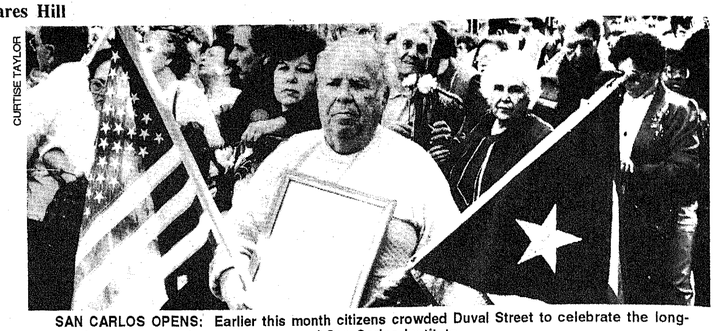

CURTISE TAYLOR

SAN CARLOS OPENS: Earlier this month citizens crowded Duval Street to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the newly renovated San Carlos Institute.

Post Office Protests

Moving city commission meetings rapidly along, Mayor Dennis Wardlow may be trying to become the quickest mayor Key West has seen in a while. But if the January 7 meeting is any indication, he isn't making friends as quickly as he's closing meetings.

Employing tactics described by some as rude and others as efficient, Wardlow informed a demanding crowd that he would not hear comments on the post office's new location. The order drew heckles and boos from the gallery.

The fray began over the reading of a resolution requesting the U.S. Postal Service to recognize public concerns over the relocation of the post office. The current plan will move the office from Flagler Avenue to the Overseas Market on North Roosevelt Boulevard, a location many find inappropriate because of heavy traffic and an inadequate and confusing parking lot.

Sponsored by commissioner Sally Lewis, the resolution was backed by a large group of citizens, many of whom attended the meeting. Present were retired postal workers, members of Last Stand, retired armed services officers, several local businessmen, three former city commissioners and a retired city planner who makes Key West her winter home.

Once the resolution was read into the record, Wardlow asked city attorney Ginny Stones for a legal opinion. Stones said the Postal Service was bound to Lewis Properties, owners of the Overseas Market, by the contract and that the city could be held liable if it were to interfere and cause Overseas to lose the contract.

In a flurry of activity, the resolution was withdrawn, and the mayor tried to move on to the next issue. But Marjorie Chapin, the citizen who spearheaded a petition to reconsider the post office location, stood and declared that she wanted to be heard.

Wardlow said, "We aren't hearing any public input."

Again, he attempted to move on. But members of the audience shouted in protest and referred to Wardlow in unkind terms. Someone began stomping his feet, and soon most of the audience joined the clamor.

The commission, unable to conduct business, adjourned to the attorney's desk. With a worried expression on his face, city manager Felix Cooper ducked beneath his desk to make a phone call—presumably to the police, who arrived a short time later.

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Mild-mannered Citizen Is Miffed

June Nelson, mild-mannered citizen, was upset that the mayor would not hear post office comments, so she made hers anyway. Nelson said she had contacted the office of the Post Master General whom, she said, was concerned with the level of service provided to the postal customers.

Her comments drew applause.

As the room quieted and the commissioners returned to their seats, retired postal worker and former city commissioner José Menendez stood center aisle and addressed the mayor in a calm, clear voice.

"Mr. Mayor," he said, "It is unconstitutional for you not to allow the people to speak. You were elected to represent the people."

Again, the audience burst into applause; Wardlow relentlessly banged the gavel and continued the meeting in the presence of the newly arrived police.

Commission Paves Way for Shallow Injection Wells

In a stunning upset for environmentalists, Mayor Wardlow and commissioners Joe Pais and Harry Bethel paved the way for the drilling of shallow-injection wells, which were previously illegal within the city. The majority also voted neither to fund nor to locate funding for a study of the effects of pumping sewage into the ground beneath the city.

Experts have warned the city for years of the fragility of a freshwater lens, which is located beneath the island. Some believe the shallow-injections wells will contaminate both the lens and privately owned wells, which are located on the island.

Also, reports of damage to other ecosystems from shallow-injections wells have recently been completed and are available.

In a related issue, scientists, studying the systematic dying of the coral reef, have traced some of the death to nutrients from sewage. Shallow-injection wells reportedly may contribute to the nutrient overload.

Late last year, the new commission voted to rollback the sewer rates for a small return to the household user and a larger return to the major users such as hotels, rather than spend the already accrued monies on sewer upgrades.

Ecological Study Denied

In a resolution drafted by Reef Relief and sponsored by commissioner Sally Lewis, the city was asked to fund an environmental impact study on damage that would occur should the city approve shallow-injection wells.

When citizen Ashley Simmons Hotz began to speak on the subject, commissioner Harry Bethel interrupted and asked who authored the resolution. When he was advised that Reef Relief wrote it, the commissioner made a note that Reef Relief, and *not* a member of city staff, had written the resolution. Public input was then allowed to continue.

(Later, Deevon Quirolo of Reef Relief said she had spoken to Bethel about the resolution and that he knew who the author was prior to the meeting.)

Numerous testimonies were delivered on the injection well's potential to damage the ecosystem. Former commissioner George Halloran spoke of the damage shallow injection wells caused to the Bahamas. There are more injection wells in the Keys, he said, than in the entire remainder of the state.

Pais, however, said the federal government was performing a study of the reef and that the city should not spend money on a study of their own.

Several citizens explained that the federal study may not cover injection wells specifically.

Cooper said it would be cheaper to run the sewer line to north Stock Island, which has no line, than to drill wells. Projects such as the hospital and the proposed jail would benefit from permission to install the wells rather than pay for expensive sewer line installation.

Finally, the commission voted to deny the funding for the study and subsequently voted for the wells to be installed. Commissioners Lewis and Weekley were opposed.

"It's sad," Deevon Quirolo said, "The city undid a lot of good progress that the previous commission did." She said that Reef Relief will turn to the county for support on the issue.

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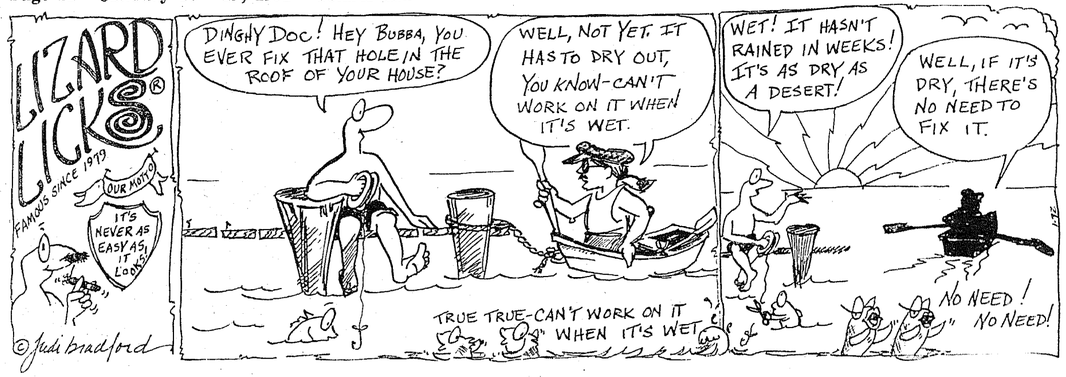

Readers Write

Wildlife Must Improve Attitude

Dear Editor:

How many more millions of dollars of negative publicity will have to appear nationally, like Phil Caputo's recent article in the *New York Times* Sunday Magazine, before the Florida Keys wake up?

Come on, wildlife.

You, great white herons and bald eagles —bad press kills us all. What's the matter: can't take a little dirty bath water? And all you critters out at the coral reef: can't you see how hard we're working to fix your place up? Be positive. Reef Relief is working for you! So is the Florida Keys Land and Sea Trust. Be part of our team. See how well we accommodate diversity? Learn from our example.

Don't be such strangers. We've got a lot to offer. After all, 95 percent of Monroe County is off the tax rolls; 95 percent of Monroe County belongs to you.

I'm not complaining. I'm only trying to point out, in a positive manner, that we care about you. Really. So come out, come out, wherever you are. Come on back and enjoy our beautiful sunsets. Our warm and friendly people.

The Monroe County Tourist Development Council (TDC) spends upwards of $10 million annually to keep the Florida Keys in the public eye. And compared to the rest of Florida, we are doing just fine. So, spoonbills, thank your lucky stars you are not in Orlando.

I'm not suggesting that the environment is to blame for everything. In fact, there's a simple solution. Problem is, to share this idea with you, I have to invoke the TDC, and everyone knows how controversial it is to stir up that sacred cow. So I'm being extra careful with many caveats not to create any false impression or presumption of knowledge or disturb it in any way.

Everyone knows the TDC would never spend money to educate tourists about the fragility of our wildlife habitats. To do so would be so beneath the dignity of our visitors. It would also be beneath the dignity of the TDC to entertain such a notion, and in fact, it would humiliate the public to put the matter out for public discussion.

Spending money for education of tourists is illegal. Wise state legislators forbade its ever being brought up. It's a bad idea. Why disturb people's vacations?

But what about using TDC funds to educate wildlife, which is not on holiday and, therefore, not so sensitive to intrusion?

Call me crazy, but this is where our citizens needs to get involved. And I know how hard that is—especially when you have to get up in the morning after reading what the rest of the country has to say about us. But I say we climb on our own two feet, pick up your pen and paper and act!

Support a plan to bring back our wildlife back through TDC-sponsored education. Use TDC funds to reach out. Let visitors know we are user friendly and environmentally sensitive. Sponsor contests for locals and tourists. Reach out to wildlife. Let them know we are there. Let them know we care.

We need to make it easier for endangered species or merely threatened ones to get on the bandwagon. I'm not suggesting we go hog wild, but carefully and deliberately. I'm talking about subsidizing local businesses to do the job. Let our wildlife know how hard we've worked to build assets, create value, and wealth and opportunity. Let magnificent frigates ride the Conch Tour Train. Everyone pays, including piping plovers.

There are no free lunches; let the tourist bed tax, administered by the TDC, subsidize this plan. To educate our wildlife so it will return. To let a dolphin ride a jet ski. Why should they have to work so hard? Kawasaki does it better!

And if we could convince them, if we could reach out and show them that what we're all about is progress, not just for middle-class tourists but for lower forms of life. For instance, low flying avian species, like Colonial waterbirds, give them a chance to experience the beneficial thrill of riding on personal hovercraft. You don't have to be a bird anymore: you just have to be more like us!

Please.

Because nothing else is working. The critters are leaving, and God knows it's lonely enough to get up day by day. Our natural rights are being impinged by bad communication.

Gosh darn, we keep piling sand on the beaches and it washes away, the litter piles up, the nests are empty, and the reef is so sad and depressing. So let's rally! We're not "Fighting Conchs" and "Dolphins" for nothing? Let's get together and make the Florida Keys the best destination we can be for wildlife and tourists.

Then the *New York Times* will really have something to write about!

Alan Farago
Key West

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Center for Cuban Studies Is Not Pro-Socialist

Dear Editor:

First, congratulations to *Solares Hill* for devoting so much space to Cuba! There is too little objective information out there.

In his article, writer J.D. Dooley refers to the resource center which I direct as the "pro-socialist" Center for Cuban Studies, in contradistinction to the "pro-blockade Cuban American National Foundation."

I agree that CANF supports the U.S. blockade against Cuba; it has said so publicly many times. However, the Center for Cuban Studies is *not* pro-socialist.

During the trip to Cuba, J.D. Dooley asked me if I consider myself a socialist, and I said yes. However, that characterizes neither the membership of the Center nor the Center itself.

The Center for Cuban Studies is a non-profit, tax-exempt educational institution committed to providing up-to-date information about Cuba to the public, and to helping U.S. citizens learn more about Cuba first hand, through the trips we sponsor, and secondhand through our magazine, *CUBA Update*, and the resource materials in our Lourdes Casal Library.

If we have a political agenda, it is to encourage the renewal of diplomatic and trade relations between the U.S. and Cuba, so that the existing sorry state of affairs, so harmful to both Cubans and us, can end.

Sandra Levinson
Executive Director
Center for Cuban Studies
New York, New York

Editor's note: Sandra Levinson may be contacted at the Center for Cuban Studies, 124 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10011; or call 212-242-0559.

Vonnegut Interview A Disappointment

Dear Editor:

I think it unfortunate that Anne Carlisle's interview with Kurt Vonnegut in the last issue of *Solares Hill* was only mildly illuminating.

While it's quite reasonable that she pursued a line of questioning that relates to the theme of this year's Key West Literary Seminar, it would have been preferable to see his and Paul Lazarus' [who was also interviewed] comments on film outlined, perhaps in an article on the seminar itself.

The portion of the interview published (assuming there was probably more) seems like a flubbed opportunity to cover other fresher, relatively unexplored topics (e.g., his latest book) with the author. Case in point, had Ms. Carlisle wanted to know what Vonnegut's impressions were of *Slaughterhouse Five* (the film), she might have referred to Vonnegut's book *Palm Sunday*, Chapter 18.

Joe Silva
Key West

Excellent Reporting

Dear Editor:

I want to thank writer G.S. Wynn for the article he wrote about me in the January 2, 1992 edition of *Solares Hill*, and to compliment him on his excellent job of reporting.

If I can be of more service in the future, please do not hesitate to call on me.

John Wolf
Raymond James & Associates
Key West

Cover To Cover

Dear Editor:

I enjoy reading *Solares Hill* cover to cover! It brings back many fun times in Key West. Thanks.

Wm. J. Moore, III
Cahutta, Georgia

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On The Town

with Jane Phillips

What better way to start the New Year than to be surrounded by friends.

Shirley and Al Steinman had their annual New Year's Eve bash around their pool and Tiki bar. Among those celebrating were **Susan and Jimmy Weekley, Nancy and Bert L. Bender, Kay Maunsbach, Sue and Ty Buford, Claire and Gordon Lacy** and **Jack Baron**.

Right around the corner, **Cynthia Gooche**'s guests danced the night away to the reggae beat of the **Junkanoos**, and no one had a better time than the hostess.

Kathleen Elgin and **Liz Kern** rolled out the red carpet for their New Year's Day Recovery Party. Old and new friends rubbed shoulders in the beautiful garden setting. Spotted in the crowd were **Ann and John Dickinson, Sally Lewis, Susan Olsen, Lisa Griggs, Richard Fowler, Lynn and David Kaufelt, Shelly Malone, Jane Vandergrift** and **Max McQuillan**.

Friends came down from Miami and turned **Linda Schuh**'s New Year's Day brunch into a wedding party. Linda played "Marrying Sam" for bride **Leslie Lenthessen** and groom **Jim Vantiez**. There was impromptu conch-shell music and bougainvillea bouquets, plus congratulations from **Pat Green, John Jones, Capt. Tony Tarracino**, and **Jim McLernan** (who was enjoying a day long birthday celebration).

What's the former mayor doing these days? "I'm finally taking time off to get to know myself," said **Capt. Tony**. (That's what sends most of us back to work!)

George Lucktenberg, nationally known harpsichordist and pianist delighted Casa Gato music lovers with his wit and charm. "Pianists call me a harpsichordist and harpsichordists call me a pianist," he joked modestly.

Faces not in their usual places: **Gordon Ross** is now in charge of Community/Public Relations at **Lower Florida Keys Health Systems**. **Anne Carlisle** left Tennessee **Williams Fine Arts Center** to take over Gordon's job at the Pier House.

The bike shop that I've been going to for years just gave me the business. During the holidays they were "too busy with tourist rentals to fix a flat." I looked up **Robert "The Bicycle Man"** at Whitehead on Olivia Street. He fixed the tire in five minutes at a very modest price, and he gained a new customer.

If I hadn't spied **Monica Haskell** and **Joe Pais** in the crowd at the **San Carlos Institute** festivities, I would have thought I was in Cuba—or at least Miami. It was a major event. **Maydez Santaña**, a 22-year old reporter for *El Nuevo Herald* put it this way: "Now the Cuban people have a sanctuary—a place to call their own." **Senator Bob Graham** agreed: "This is a very special place." When leaving, **José Rodriguez** of Miami noticed my bicycle and said. "You and Fidel use the same transportation" alluding to the gas shortage in Cuba.

Art patron **Anne McKee** is giving something back to the art community. She's established a fund to match whatever is raised at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church concert to be given to deserving artists, writers and performers. Board members for the Artists Fund are **Adaline Turner, Nancy Friday, Sandra Taylor, Susan Hawkins, Carmen Rodriguez** and **John Martini**.

The Terrace is wrapped in yellow tape with windows and doors boarded up. This happened only days after a rash of publicity about how great everything was.

Skipper Kripitz had so much fun celebrating his 40th birthday last year that he invited all his musician pals to jam with him at the Green Parrot this year.

Kurt Vonnegut was a last minute "no show" at the Key West Literary Seminar earlier this month. Board member **David Ethridge** called the writer's agent to see what happened, but he "couldn't find anything out."

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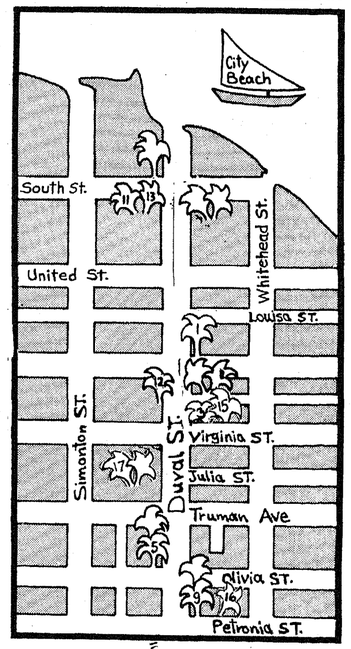

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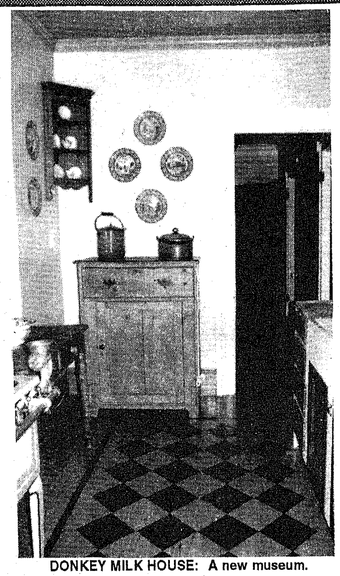
Uptown Duval Street captures the aura of Key West's Old Town in a small, tasteful slice. Here high fashion elegance snuggles with down-home funk and neighborhood service stores. Unpretentious local mainstays fit comfortably beside polished new storefronts. While Uptown Duval continues to evolve and develop, merchants take particular pride in preserving the laid-back atmosphere they say characterizes their area. Sip a genuine Cuban café con leche at a sidewalk café, then stroll along the street for exclusive shopping adventures. In your travels, glance South and catch the sparkle of the ocean. Uptown makes you remember why you came to Key West—a tropical island paradise.

(Each business is keyed into the map. Check the bottom left corner of each box for the number.)

Business Tides

Thunderdome Enterprises announces it will open its latest **ClubLand** dance club, playhouse, and concert hall in Key West's historic **Strand Theatre**, located at 527 Duval Street. **ClubLand at the Strand** will combine a diverse medley of dancing, theater, cabaret-style revues, name entertainment, and special events. Thunderdome's president, **Steve Jarvis**, is currently in negotiation with Cellar Door Concerts and Pace Theatrical to bring national concerts and theatrical productions to the venue, which is scheduled to open January 23. Noted theater-restoration expert **Ray Shephardson** is currently giving the Strand's art deco interior a facelift.

Gary Young, director of **Island Wellness**, announces his 1992 spring Wellness schedule. In addition to the regular classes of Kripalu yoga, T'ai Chi Ch'uan and personal growth, the next several months will include a series of special workshops designed to improve human capabilities. Specialists from Key West and around the U.S. will be offering dream interpretation, an hypnosis introduction with past-life and age-regression techniques, a hypnosis certification program, a body alignment program, an incest survival workshop for women, an inner child/self-discovery weekend, a reflexology workshop and massage-for-couples workshop. For a complete program schedule, call 296-SELF.



DONKEY MILK HOUSE: A new museum.

After a year restoring 18th-century townhouses in London, **Sam Maxwell** and **Denison Tempel**, former owners of the Eaton Lodge, returned to Key West and purchased 613 Eaton Street. The house, built by Peter A. Williams in the 1860s, was painstakingly restored by Maxwell and Denison, and is now operating as **The Donkey Milk House**. Of architectural interest, the house is an art museum, open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The owners invite you to "stop by, and be sure to ask where the donkey milk came from!" Call 296-1866.

With locations in Duval Square and Big Pine, **Tropical Land and Title Company** announces the promotion of **Kendra Foster** to the position of vice president and senior closing officer. Foster, who resides with her husband Ron on Summerland Key, has excelled as closing officer for the Lower Keys area since March 1988. The promotion will give her new opportunities to reach out to the community and become more involved in the marketing and expansion of the company.

A shop that specializes in original and unusual works of art and glass **Grand Collection** received national recognition for its 60-second television commercial "The Grand Collection." FCC commissioner James Quello presented **Key TV** owners **Toni Davis** and **Jud Colley** with the 1991 first place commercial production award at the annual meeting of the Community Broadcasters Association held recently in Las Vegas. This award marks the second time Key TV, Channel 40, has produced first place national award winners for Key West clients.

Biscayne Chemical, 1025 White Street, announces that it has implemented a program called " One Percent For Life" to benefit **AIDS Help, Inc.** The program is the brainchild of **Kent Ducote**, Biscayne's branch-office manager. Using the slogan "Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is," Ducote and his co-workers hope to enroll all customers in the program. To enroll, notify store personnel, and at the end of each quarter Biscayne will cut a check to AIDS Help, Inc. for one percent of your net purchases. For more information, call 296-6000.

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A new radio station, **Pik'n Country WPIK 102.5 FM** announces it is testing its new studios located at mile marker 22.5 on Cudjoe Key. WPIK's country format is the only one of its kind from the Middle Keys through Key West. Broadcasting at 50,000 watts, the station is locally owned and operated and programmed in digital stereo, including a state-of-the-art computer system, which ensures high-quality reception. "WPIK is proud to be a member of Monroe County's media community," said president Theresa Parrish.

For the sixth consecutive year, **Randy Dudley** of Big Pine was recently presented the National Quality Award by the **National Association of Life Underwriters**. The award demonstrates quality life-underwriting service to the public as evidenced by an excellent record of maintaining and extending the benefits of life insurance. Call 872-2063.

Norman D. Kinney, executive director of the **Independent Innkeepers' Association** (IIA), announced that the **Marquesa Hotel** in Key West has been accepted as a member. The association consists of 230 country inns in the U.S. and Canada, as well as a number of associates in the United Kingdom. Members are held to standards of personal hospitality, which ensure their guests both professional excellence and a genuine feeling of friendly welcome. The Marquesa is one of only three IIA inns in Florida.

Shel Segel, owner and manager of Key West's **Heaven Scent Florists** since 1986, announces the opening of a second store at 613 1/2 Duval Street. The new store will carry the same wide variety of flowers, plants and gift items found at Heaven Scent's Simonton Street location; additionally, it will be open evenings and Sundays. Two experienced floral designers will be on staff. The new store's are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Call 294-5978.

Richard A. Drake, Jr., president and CEO of **TIB Bank of the Keys,** announces the hiring of two new officers. **Edward V. Lett** will assume the duties of executive vice president at the Key Largo offices. He brings to the company 23 years of banking experience, most recently serving as chief operating officer for American National Bank of Florida in Jacksonville. **Edgar "Bud" Gunter** has been appointed as loan officer for TIB's Key West office on Whitehead Street. His banking history spans 10 years, having most recently worked for Progress Credit Corporation out of St. Petersburg.

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PEPPERS

By Joe Roach

When my wife and I recently returned to Key West after a two-year trek through the north Florida mainland, four pod-bearing Datil bushes traveled with us. Since becoming a genuine card-carrying Heat Freak, I wasn't sure if hot chile peppers would be available locally. I need not have worried.

It turned out that Gerry Wood, a music writer who had also just moved to the island, was maintaining a flourishing crop of his beloved firecracker-like Pili-Pili peppers. Not only that, Dennis Walley—who everybody knows as the veteran Man-Behind-the-Bar at the Full Moon Saloon—is a Heat Freak bubba, and does a little farming of Scotch Bonnets and other varieties on the side.

Then there's Terry Brown—wife Vicki Roush (aka Island Diva) says he's the Freakiest—who, in addition to his usual construction activities, is recognized as a prolific grower of Pili-Pilis. And there's Jerry Reed, genial trolley driver and tour guide, who regularly cooks up a variety of mouth-and-eye-watering fiery foods.

And just to show you that Heat Freaks —like dedicated bird watchers, Rotarians and buche imbibers—tend to gravitate to each other, there's a movement afoot to found a club comprised of Key West and Lower Keys chileheads. The name for this organization, proposed at an informal gathering, will be "The Southernmost Pepper People Society," with a ladies' auxilliary to be known as "The Hot Flashes."

Speaking of gravitating, the last time Bill Wharton, the nationally known "Sauce Boss," was in town for a Margaritaville Café gig, he heated up a pepper-people gathering one afternoon. Fiery foods and peppery potions, including Wharton's own "Liquid Summer," were served.

There wasn't a dry eye in the crowd.

So far, little movement toward a formal organization has been accomplished. But potential SPPS members plan to take action at the first opportunity. Also, they hope to hear from other chileheads in Key West and the Lower Keys, who would like to join the Heat Freaks.

Okay. Every hot pepper devotee has a story to tell about his conversion from bland to fiery foods. . . and mine goes like this:

Until two years ago I thought I knew something about hot peppers and spicy hot foods. Like many, I preferred my chili con carne zesty hot and every now and then enjoyed a mildly hot jalapeño pepper with salad. But that was *before* I lived St. Augustine, *before* I bit into a perky little pepper grown and known all over northeast Florida as the Datil.

While shopping in the nation's reputed Oldest City, I came across a pint jar filled with little green things immersed in liquid. The homemade label read "Datil Peppers —Vinegar," and carried the name W.A. Pursley, Molasses Junction Country Store.

I sampled one of the little green things when I got home.

Wow! My tongue recoiled violently. Lips puffed up, teeth agitated, I breathed fire. Water failed to suppress the heat. I tried ice, then milk, then tomato juice. Little by little the conflagration subsided.

Gawd, that was good.

Interested in the Datil, I visited with W.A. Pursley and the county agent, talked with local people who made and sold hot sauces, gathered information from the library and the University of Florida. Then I wrote an article about St. Augustine entitled "Hot City . . . Home of the Datil, the scaringly hot little pepper," and sold it to a national magazine.

That did it. I was hooked.

I became a full-fledged member of the Capsaicin Cult. A true blue chilehead. A Heat Freak who must have a daily fix of chile to survive. To satisfy this consuming craving I put chile in my morning tomato juice, lace soups and salads with various varieties, use Datil or Scotch Bonnet or jalapeño to add fiery flavor to all kinds of meats.

I've arrived now at the stage where not just any pepper will provide a satisfactory hot-high. The preferred chile is the *Habanero*, rated the hottest pepper in the world by registering up to 300,000 units of heat provided by the chemical capsaicin. By comparison, the popular Jalapeño averages only about 6000 units. (The Datil, Scotch Bonnet and others belong to the *Habanero* family.)

So what is this "capsaicin?" It's a natural chemical compound—the stuff that makes chiles hot. And, believe it or not, capsaicin is good for you, medically and nutritionally speaking. Chiles contain from two to six times the amount of Vitamin C usually found in an orange, more Vitamin A than carrots, as well as Vitamin E and some of the B complex. Chiles are a good source of fiber and are low in sodium, cholesterol and calories.

Medical researchers have found that capsaicin works on the body's pain receptors and are looking into various applications—one being the suppression, and maybe elimination, of some headaches. And there's an old wives' tale that chiles have aphrodisiacal qualities.

At least one researcher has concluded that chile is psychologically addictive. Capsaicin produces a natural high. Here's how it works: the heat of the chile pepper dilates the blood vessels and produces sweat. At the same time, the heat causes the brain to secrete endorphins, which suppress pain and dull the senses—something like morphine.

So much for the medical report.

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CHILEHEADS: (From left) Kathy Roach, Ben Harrison, Joe Roach, Helen Harrison, Gerry Wood, Vicky Roush, Carol Shaughnessy, Terry Brown.

Heating Up the Kitchen

Here are a couple of recipes that should really jangle your tastebuds. Take care— they're hot! By the way, if you don't grow your own chiles, or don't have a friend who does, check the Waterfront Market in Key West. You'll find several varieties on display—Scotch Bonnet, Thai, jalapeño, and other fierce goodies.

Hell-In-A-Bottle
2 cups fresh or dried hot peppers of your choice, stems removed, chopped
3 cups white vinegar
2 large (32-ounce size) bottles catsup

Put the peppers and 1/2 cup of vinegar into blender or food processor. Blend for 5 minutes or until smooth. Put the mixture into a large saucepan; add the remaining 2 1/2 cups of vinegar and both bottles of catsup. Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes. Cool slightly and pour into clean glass bottles or jars. Cap securely. Let age in refrigerator for 1 week. Yield 6 pints. (Recipe may be halved.)

Chile Salsa
1 tablespoon "Hell-in-a-Bottle" sauce (above)
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 large onion, minced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon commercial chili powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon thyme
1 bay leaf
1 cup tomato purée
2 cups beef or chicken bouillon

Sauté the onion and garlic in olive oil. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Cool. Put in clean glass containers and cap securely. Yield: 1 quart.

If you would like more hot pepper recipes—like Minorcan clam chowder, oriental hot sauce, picadillo, marinated shrimp—send a stamped (2-ounce postage, self-addressed, #10-size) envelope to Recipes, Solares Hill, 1217 White Street, Key West, FL 33040.

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• JANUARY ART CALENDAR • JANUARY ART CALENDAR •

African Art Curios and Crafts • Tribal and animal masks and artifacts. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 501-B Southard St. 294-1291.

Art Collections Key West • National and local artists in a variety of styles and themes. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, noon. to 6 p.m. 600 Front St. in the Bottling Court. 296-5956.

Art Safari Gallery & Key Largo Antiques • Museum-quality collections, including beaded masks and spears from four continents. MM 98.6, Gulfside, Key Largo. 852-5933.

Audubon House • "Geiger Memoranda": historical documents and photographs of the Geiger family and their life in the Audubon house, through January. Admission $5, children under six free, AAA discount. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 205 Whitehead St. 294-2116.

Banana Boat Batik • Hand-painted silk and cotton by Key West Attitude. New ceramic work by Walt Hyla—animals, fish, lidded vessels, functional ware and hanging fish sculptures. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 419B Duval St. 296-2380.

Boheem • All-new selection of painted furniture, including a new line of framed mirrors. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 706A Duval St. 292-4035.

Lee Dodez Showroom • New classes at FKCC by Jay Gogin in January. Hand-built clay pieces. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment. 901 Duval St., rear. 296-5901.

Donkey Milk House • Recent watercolors of Old Town by Barbara Dorf, noted English artist. "Beguiling . . . above all the elegance."—Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy. Historic china by Motta Heden. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 613 Eden Street. 296-1866.

East Bank Gallery • Paintings by local artists, highlighting Dick Matson originals. Also limited edition prints and custom framing. Daily, except Sunday, 10 a.m to 6 p.m. 706 White St. 296-2679.

East Martello Museum & Gallery • "Key West in the Movies" exhibition, featuring film history of the island. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. $3 admission for adults. 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd. 296-3913.

Florida Keys Community College Library Gallery • "Photography in Advertising," featuring local photographers, through January 21. January 24, Faculty Show, including work by Upper Keys members. Open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Junior College Rd., Stock Island, 296-9081, ext. 202.

Gingerbread Square Gallery • Visit our new Uptown location. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1207 Duval St. 296-8900

Grand Collection • Paintings, Asian antiques, ancient artifacts, tribal arts, jewelry. Daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 810 Duval St. 292-1331.

Great Southern Gallery • Patricia Hurt through January 30. January 31, Harry Greene acrylics. Outdoor marble sculpture by Pat Stone. Soon: outdoor steel sculpture by Cuban national Rafael. Classes: watercolor by Errol Etienne and acrylic by Harry Greene. Also our regular artists. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 910 Duval St. 294-6660.

Guild Hall Gallery • Artists' cooperative featuring ink, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, prints, gyotaku fish printing, soft sculpture, fabric piecework, printed and handpainted cards, ceramics, painted clothing, leather bags, photography, stained glass, ironwork, painted mirrors, collage, painted woodcarvings by Key West artists. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and sometimes later. 614 Duval St. 296-6076.

Haitian Art Company • Spirit flags, papier mache, paintings, wood sculpture, metal cut-outs by Haitian artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 600 Frances St. 296-8932.

Harrison Gallery • Susan Thayer, Andre Henocque, Matthew Lineburger, Ann Lorraine Alan Tidball and Helen Harrison. Daily, noon to 5:30 p.m. except Sunday and Monday or ring the bell. 825 White St. 294-0609.

High Tide • Oil paintings and prints with local flavor. Affordable prices from $5 to $300. Packing and shipping available. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to midnight. 826 Duval St. 293-0331.

Is It Art? • Hand-painted artwear, prints and wall-hangings. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 913 Duval St. 294-0411.

Island Arts • February 8, 7 to 9 p.m., a preview of new found-object sculptures by Orvello Wood. An ever-expanding artist cooperative and consignment shop with a uni-que selection of local arts, crafts and painted objects. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 1128 Duval St. 292-9909.

Island Wellness • "Conch Fritters," contemporary humorous work with Key West subjects by visiting New Mexico artist Joyce Mechelina Centofanti working in watercolor and oil on paper. Paintings by local and Caribbean artists. Daily, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. 530 Simonton St. 296-7353.

Kennedy Gallery • New wood sculptures by Boston artist John Vliet. Animal sculpture by Peter Otfinoski. Etched glass pieces by Susan Pellish. Vibrant oil paintings by Michele Kennedy. Watercolor streetscapes by Robert Kennedy. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., maybe later. 1130 Duval St. 294-5997.

Kennedy Studios • Graphics, limited edition prints. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 133 Duval St. 294-5850; 511 Duval St. 294-8564.

Key West Art Center • Paintings by art center members. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 301 Front St. 294-1241.

Key West Lighthouse Museum • History of Keys lighthouses and technology of lighthouses. Also, life of a lighthouse keeper. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission $3 adults, $1 children 7 to 15, under 7 free. 938 Whitehead St. 294-0012.

Kudu Gallery of Tribal Arts • New acquisitions of tribal rugs and kilims. African art, collector's textiles, jewelry, international folk art. Big shipment of African masks and jewelry. Also oriental rugs, kilims, ethnic musical instruments, tapestries, toys and African art. Daily,10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday evenings until 9 p.m. 1208 Duval St. 294-3771.

Lane Gallery • Group show of new artists: Tom Norby, Lisa Remeny, Edward Stevenson. Scott Jones pastels and oils—some surreal, some photoreal. Eddie Mitchell impressionistic oils. New works by Tony Chimento. Group show by Key West artists. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 1000 Duval St. 294-0067.

Loeber-Stanton Gallery • Originals by international artist-Joe Loeber. By appointment. 1619 Atlantic Blvd. 296-8996.

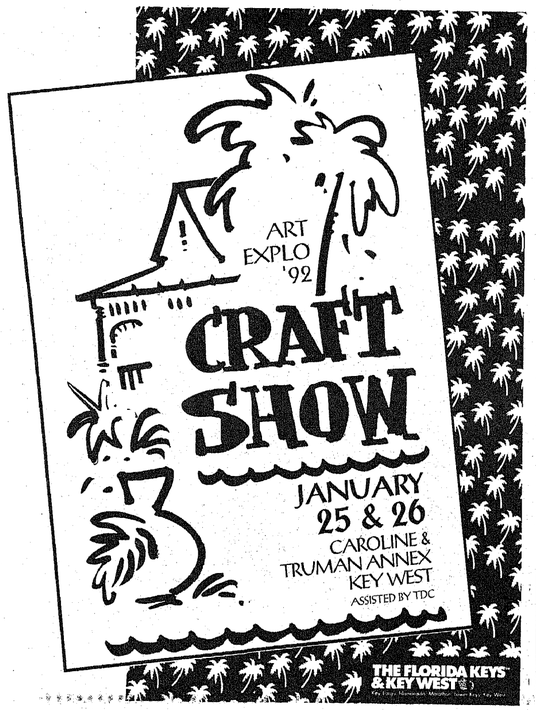
Lucky Street Gallery • January 29, Roberta Marks: new paintings on paper and canvas. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 919 Duval St. 294-3973.

Mosquito Coast Island Outfitters • Old Key West engravings from *Harper's Bazaar*. Errol Etienne watercolor alligators and other critters. New paintings from South America. Back country paintings and prints by Michael Shannon. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. 1107 Duval St. 296-6124.

Out on a Whim • Collection of unique decorative arts gifts. Call us for decorative arts services. Daily, noon to 7 p.m. 512 Olivia St. 294-4650.

Pandemonium • See our new line, "Depression Ware," in muted colors, novel textures. Also broken tile mirrors and lamps in our distinctive style, art fashions and furniture, tile tables, ceramic house numbers. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m. 704 Duval St. 294-0351.

Pelican Poop Shoppe • Haitian art, paintings, metal sculpture, papier mache, wood carvings. Ceramics by Mary Ann Worth. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6



• JANUARY ART CALENDAR • JANUARY ART CALENDAR •

p.m. 314 Simonton St. 292-9955.

Plantation Potters • Come see our new arrivals. Functional and decorative ware from some of America's finest potters. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes later. 717 Duval St. 294-3143.

Rara Avis Gallery • Oil portraits, reproductions of masters and original work by local artists. Daily, noon to 6 p.m. 507 B South St. 292-3611.

Robinson Galleries • Featuring the art of Wyland and six other international artists. Daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 292-1655.

Rose Lane Antiquities • Pre-Columbian art. Flexible hours or by appointment. 524 Rose Lane. 294-1873, 294-2270.

Studio 227 • Handbuilt clay-work, watercolor originals, Bahama Village scenes by local artists. Neighborhood children's art classes. Hours: Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Locklear multi-media; acrylics. 227 Petronia St. 294-7141

Sunset Arts and Crafts • Work by local artists and craftsmen—many Mallory Square vendors at the Sunset Celebration. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., often later. 414 Greene St. 296-7920.

Tar Heel Trading Co. • Functional and decorative work from many of America's best-known craftsmen. Porcelain and silk jewelry, heirloom toys and puppets, inlaid wood boxes, pottery, fused glass and porcelain figurines. Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 802 Duval St. 294-8589.

Whitehead Street Pottery • Stoneware, porcelain, Raku vessels. Daily, except Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1011 Whitehead St. 294-5067.

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Eating all the seafood that I can.

Some coconuts and rum
Will help me with my fun—
When I'm failin',
To see the humor in my fellow man.
Rick Steffen from *Tropical Nights*

"Successful people," Rick Steffen says, "have three things in common."

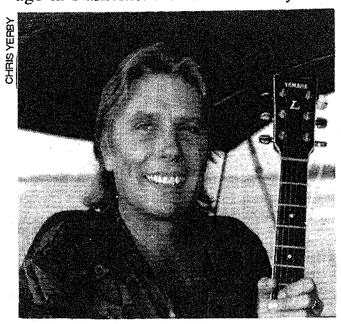
And he should know. Key West songwriter/recording artist, Rick Steffen succeeds in this town where others have failed.

"First, you have to start something," he explains. "Then you have to see it through. And last, know when to complete it."

Steffen has successfully built an entertainment career in Key West, transposing the rhythm of his life into the rhythm of song. His laid-back philosophy is manifested in his songs.

His most recent project was the production of his third local album *Tropical Nights*, available in CD and cassette. It was recorded in Summerland Key at the Conch Republic 24-track Recording Studio. His first album, *Love and Escape*, was recorded several years ago in Nashville. He records locally with

CHRIS YERBY



musical partner, Steve Mello, and together they form the duo, Offshore.

Steffen has weathered Key West's society for five years and still comes out on top.

"As an entertainer, I take my lumps just like everyone else as the seasons change here," he said. "Then, I figured out 'The Program.'" The Program, as he describes it, is merely an observation of patterns, the influencing factors which affect income.

"Again, it's timing," he says. "Being at the right place at the right time."

Steffen finds Key West a town of specialists. "People who just get by in other places, won't make it here," he says. "To be successful here you have to find something you do well that this town will appreciate. In my case, it's island music, and being versatile as an entertainer."

There's a big difference between being a musician and being an entertainer, says Steffen. Entertaining is "interaction with the audience"—and his audiences, presently at the Quay (and for three years at the Hyatt and the Pier House) seem to love it.

Keeping life in proper perspective has also helped Steffen gain success. He never hesitates to take out his sailboat—"kickin' back", and "thinkin' about life's mysteries," as one of his songs describes.

"That's definitely part of the plan," he explains. "You don't have to be so totally consumed in projects that you stop living."

A native Floridian, originally from Daytona Beach, Steffen has a degree in electronics. As a recording artist, it's a great background to help him get the exact sounds that he wants.

His style is an easy-rock combination of reggae, country/western and jazz. His versatility includes acoustical sounds for easy-listening and electronic drums for energy. When performing solo, he mesmerizes the crowds of locals and visitors with his crystal clear voice against his acoustical guitar. Songs from *Tropical Nights* entertain with marimba, flute, keyboard and strings.

Rick Steffen's CDs and cassettes are available at Specs Music, Records and Rogues and numerous other places in town. Expect to find *Tropical Nights* cotton shirts throughout the Keys, too.

"It's a good way to remind people of the fun times they had in the Keys!" he says.

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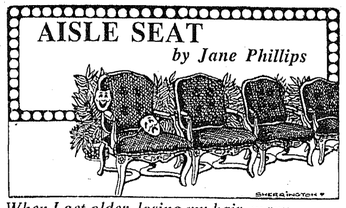

When I get older, losing my hair, many years from now . . .
Will you still need me, will you still feed me when I'm 64?"
"When I'm 64," The Beatles

If you have any romance in your soul, don't miss *Prelude To A Kiss*. Written by Craig Lucas and directed by Joy Hawkins, it runs through February 9 at the Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval Street.

Who can resist watching two stunning people tumble into that magical never-never land of love?

Paula Jo Chitty and Art Nicholas play the lovers, and their scenes together are delicious. They share past lives, passionate kisses and sexual fantasies—all with a marvelous sense of timing. His asides to the audience are charming, and her playfulness is enchanting.

But can a love like this survive marriage? What happens when the honeymoon is over? You'll have to find out for yourself, but there's a bizarre twist to this play's plot that will carry you into the fantasy zone.

The fine supporting cast is headed by Chris Stone who, as the mother of the bride, takes what could be a lack-luster role and gives it dimension. Dale Kittle plays the mysterious "Old Man"; other members include Armando Lodigiani, Justin Kawaler, John Good, Fred Carter, Mary Magill and Peggy Montgomery.

Director Joy Hawkins adds another success to her long list, and Gary McDonald has created an imaginative set that concretely sets the tone for what follows.

For more information, call the box office at 296-9911.

Family "Fun" at the Waterfront

Black comedy is the surreal art of the theatre world. It casts a spotlight on the inner sanctum of the mind and invites the audience to laugh at the exposé—something they are not always comfortable doing. That's the challenge in *Baby with the Bathwater*, which is running through January 19 at the Waterfront Playhouse, located on Mallory Square.

Directed by George Gugleotti and written by Christopher Durang, the play has been defined as "a biting black comedy about rearing a child." The plot loosely follows "Baby" from infancy to young adulthood: an amazing journey given a set of parents who can't even determine the child's gender.

The mother "Helen" (George di Braud), who suffers from permanent post-partum depression, starts the day with a cocktail, then alternately coos and screams over the bassinette. Her goal in life is to write a novel.

"John," the father (Lee Irby) is no bargain, either. He has no goals, is constantly unemployed and, when he's not popping"ludes," he's searching for the bottle of vodka.

RICHARD WATHERWAX

SMOOCH: Paula Joe Chitty and Art Nicholas in *Prelude to a Kiss* at the Red Barn Theater.

Enter "Nanny" (Kathy Klingerman). As might be expected, this caregiver is no Mary Poppins. At the first opportunity she propositions John. "Want a quick one?" "We old girls know a few things."

Add to this *ménage a trois*, "Cynthia" (Katie Tierney), whose dog has just devoured her newborn infant for lunch. Her idea of a bedtime story are excerpts from *Mommie Dearest*.

There were some lively scenes involving mothers in the park, a principal-teacher conference and spies from ASPCA.

The child finally emerges as "Young Man" (Daniel A. Riggs), a surprise to everyone as he's been called "Daisy" throughout the production. He miraculously survives his parenting (which involved cuddling alternated with beating among other horrors), and, just like the self-help books tell us, he's about to repeat the errors of his parents.

The cast, correctly, treated the subject matter lightly, and there were many bright spots in this ambitious production.

For more information, call the box office at 294-5015.

Red Barn Goes to Church

The Red Barn Theatre on Duval Street has great atmosphere, and some of Key West's most memorable theatrical moments have taken place there. But, to parody a song from South Pacific:*What ain't they got? They ain't got space*.

Well, they do now, with the acquisition of the Red Barn Annex at 541 Eaton Street (the former First Baptist Church). The first production in the new larger facilities takes place January 22 with "Made in Key West '92." This show will run concurrently with the regularly scheduled production at the Duval Street location. David Spangler directs.

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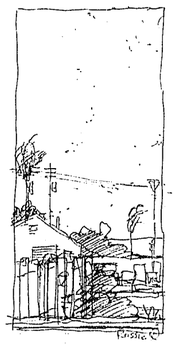

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Nature Notebook

Corridors Link Wildlife Habitats

Special to Solares Hill from the Audubon Society

J.D. DOOLEY

Many animals require large tracts of undeveloped land in which to hunt for food and find shelter and mates. Large mammals like the black bear will travel great distances, sometimes crossing from one Florida county to the next and covering 20 square miles in a day. Wildlife biologists have documented the home range of one male Florida panther to be 200 square miles. Otters can travel 10 miles along a river or stream, plus several miles overland, to reach another waterway in the same day.

In order to travel these long distances, animals must have *wildlife corridors*, a term used to describe passages that link separate or fragmented tracts of land together into one continuous, larger area where animals have a better chance of survival.

Although many of the animals that require large tracts of land for home territories are carnivores (meat eaters), who must follow the distribution of smaller animals, birds during their seasonal migrations also use large tracts of land to locate food and shelter. After flying hundreds of miles to reach the Florida coast, undisturbed habitats provide insects, fruits, seeds, and other foods that are vital to the survival of long-distance migrants.

Not only animals but plants, too, depend on large areas for survival. Many plants need wide-ranging animals to disperse seeds for the next generations' growth. When an animal eats the fruit of a plant and travels far from the food source, seeds deposited as waste products are then able to sprout and grow in a new location. In this way, plant populations also "move," their seeds transported along valuable wildlife corridors.

Fragmentation of land disrupts the wanderings of animals by separating natural habitat into smaller, isolated islands. Usually the result of land development or road construction, fragmentation restricts the movement of many animals, often with disastrous consequences.

When animals attempt to cross between fragmented habitats they are often exposed to the hazards of traffic. About 100 million animals are killed each year on U.S. highways as they move from one location to another. Animals not directly harmed by traffic may become disoriented, wandering close to homes or businesses. If this happens, the animal is often captured and relocated or sometimes destroyed as "nuisance" wildlife.

Isolated islands of shrinking natural habitat create greater chances for inbreeding to occur within animal populations. Inbreeding, or mating within the same blood stock, leads to loss of genetic diversity, infertility, and the eventual loss of an entire species, or extinction. Researchers are currently observing the results of inbreeding in the remaining small population of the endangered Florida panther.

Fragmenting natural habitat also creates opportunities for animals that are better able to adapt to changing environments, such as raccoons, opossums, and rats. These animals can wreck havoc upon native populations of songbirds and other animals by preying upon the eggs and young of many wildlife species.

Once an area is cleared for development it becomes much easier for exotic, or non-native, species to invade and crowd out native plants and animals.

Fortunately, the importance of wildlife corridors is recognized by many people, who believe it is not enough to just purchase land to be set aside as an isolated park or refuge. Planners must look at the way that land is arranged—comparing small islands to more continuous tracts and corridors—to determine how significant a role each parcel plays in the survival of Florida wildlife.

Federal and state departments of transportation are considering wildlife corridors in some of their highway designs and have constructed underpasses to allow for the movement of animals such as panthers and black bears. Aquatic underpasses along Interstate 75 in south Florida allow for water exchange and provide opportunities for Everglades mink and otters to follow their fish prey.

Another significant strategy used by government agencies and environmental organizations to protect wildlife corridors is land acquisition. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has purchased lands in the Florida Keys that will provide expanded habitats for endangered species like the American Crocodile and Key Deer. Florida leads the nation in state land acquisitions.

Citizens can help support local and state land acquisition efforts by letting their legislators, community leaders, and newspaper editors know of the value of connecting lands for wildlife corridors. Also, support conservation organizations who purchase and manage lands for native wildlife.

People who have open areas of lawn on their property can help by replacing some of it with native trees, shrubs, and ground cover to enhance its value to wildlife. This creates miniature wildlife corridors used by beneficial insects, lizards, and other animals in their search for food and shelter.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission offers two free booklets that provide a wealth of information on creating backyard wildlife habitats and other suggestions on ways to help Florida wildlife. Ask for *Planting a Refuge for Wildlife* and their newest publication, *What Have you Done for Wildlife Lately?*, by contacting the Nongame Wildlife Program, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 620 W. Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600.

The above information was provided by the Florida Chapter of the Audubon Society. Solares Hill supports the society's position on wildlife corridors.

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Palms Pelicans

BY FRANCES-ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

I strike out to pay a late afternoon visit to an old bungalow-style house in the southwestern part of town. It's a drive into the vaunted, burning-turquoise, western sky that you often see minutes before the Key West twilight. Then that awesome vast, furious, red sun fights the landscape before it sinks.

I am going to see Pearl, an Austrian woman and her artist husband. Two of his suits hang on a line in the yard. She knows how to to dry-clean them herself. In her yard, she attempts to grow her husband's tobacco, but as she plants it in the bed alongside her onion patch, his smokes are odoriferous.

I pass a rose trellis of sweet beauty. Pearl produces one chartreuse rose that blooms for her only one week each year.

There always seems some sense about Pearl that she is not quite regularized. Her eyes are not quite on the same level. Each eye from a different angle simultaneously regarding you is off-putting. She wears her ears high up on her head.

And she always gets hold of strange-colored material which she sews into garments for herself and her Labrador dog. This frock today is a blue shaded with a brown, an orange and a green. (When I get home and am watching "Crossfire" on CNN but recalling that design, then I know how creative it was. Her husband's design.)

I first met Pearl in the May Hill Russell Library when she was borrowing those great art picture books for her husband. She has nothing to say about him except, "I am attracted to men with large feet."

The artist tromps into the room with an authoritative tread. He looks more like a carpenter or a truck driver than an artist. He's a huge, beefy man with a masculine quality that alarms you. He steps with an inequality that could be called a limp; moves in a leery way (like an outside dog) around pieces of furniture. He has a soot moustache.

Pearl immediately goes to him and strokes his hair like he is a dog. He is her icon. But what she knows about him is not his art, which fails to interest her. There is a recognizable, deep, physical, domesticated, complex male/female alliance here, of course. But, because she doesn't understand the real man, adulation is hard to sustain and prolong.

Equality in love is seldom attained, perhaps because it is unrealistic and inauthentic.

She irons and arranges pristine stacks of his underwear. Out the window swing his dress-up trousers with only the faintest smell of the gasoline she uses to clean them.

I am invited to see his work. I don't notice the red eastern rugs that lie restlessly on the floors. I don't notice Pearl plucking my sleeve, saying, "I have a hubby who I need to do something about, but he is not someone about whom something is done." I don't notice the old Labrador dog who is wearing a purple and orchid blouse with a white lace collar and watching me with a martyred expression.

I have eyes for this artist's work only.

There is the model, Primrose. She surely is not entirely all there. Not to say retarded —just possessing a low organic quality. She lies back on an orange satin cushion, the artist has arranged 12 mangoes on a plate for this painting.

Pearl is whispering, "The insurance man loves Primrose, who desires Lt. Sanchez off in the east taming Palestinians, who has it on for a Ft. Lauderdale nurse, who longs passionately for a math teacher at Coral Shores, who loves Christ, whom Primrose loves. So it all works out."

I shake Pearl's hand off my elbow.

I am dumbfounded, standing in that doorway. I take in the art. On the easel confronting me is "Primrose and Fruit." It cries out to you. In the picture there are particles of stabbing sadness. Tears come to my eyes. About the room, over the walls, stacked on the floor, there are enthralling, languishing, poignant images of Primrose sitting there like a distinguished porcelain or a revered substance.

And, in the hundreds of paintings, the color is ravishing. It simply breaks upon your retinas. The panels used in the settings carry along the current as wonderfully as those by Henri Matisse, France's eternally compelling painter of exotic women. The model screams silently in these pictures—a woman very dear and rather flawed or rather dear and very flawed.

This work is not for sale. The artist utters only once, "Art shows us what we did not know we knew."

Turning to go, I barely note Pearl taking the trousers off the line. As for what I have seen, only a summary judgment can I make. I recognize that I have seen crashing genius. From the throbbing art, I am restored to myself.

Actually, I never really leave myself.

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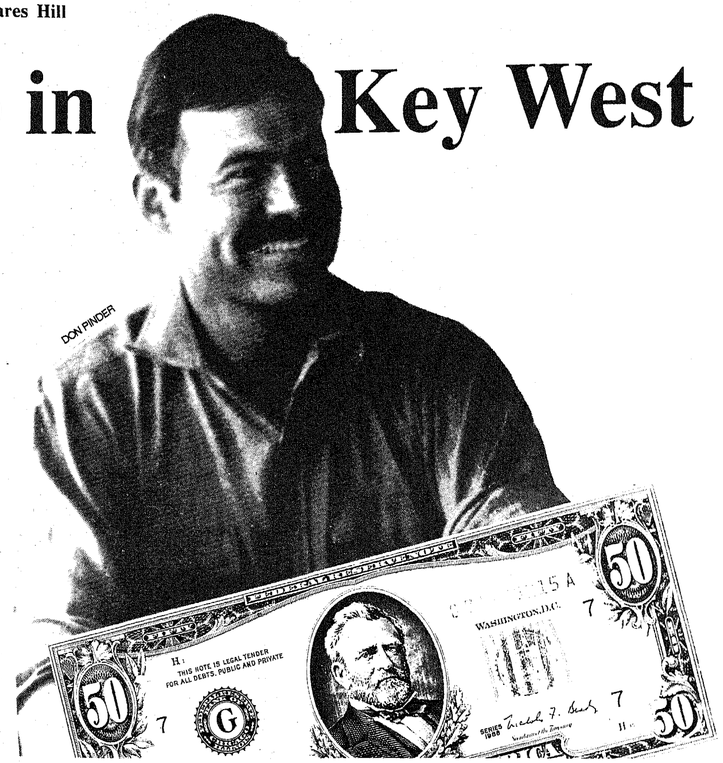

By Mitch Grabois

Pruning saw in hand, Ron was in the middle of the street surveying his neighbor's peach tree. His neighbors were gone (he'd heard rumors that the bank was foreclosing) and the tree was already two years late in the pruning. Limbs were growing over the property line, branches pressing against his porch and the side of his house, encouraging rot; and he hated to think of the damage they would do if a hurricane veered over the island.

His former neighbors had been nice enough people, but they were volatile after dark. Ron had often awakened in the middle of the night to hear them (their house not ten feet from his own, all the windows open for the breeze) screaming at each other in Spanish. As he didn't know the language, it was rather like listening to opera, dramatic but not particularly enlightening.

Having surveyed the tree long enough to forge an ideal, he climbed back onto the termite-eaten ladder with his saw and the spray can of glossy black sealant that would save the raw wood from the voracious trespass of insects.

As he peered at a healthy branch for the best place to make a cut, he heard a voice —"Sir?"—and looked down his ladder to find a Japanese couple squinting up at him from a few feet away. It seemed they were, truly, ubiquitous.

Living in a tourist town, Ron had been vaguely aware of the presence of foreigners. Recently, however, he'd been sensitized to their intrusion.

First, his eye had been caught by an article in the *Utne Reader,* which poked fun at the "Ugly Europeans." This category also included non-Europeans, like the Japanese, who were, *en masse*, invading America with their virile currencies and their arrogance, much as Americans had flooded Europe after WW II.

Then his Uncle Lew died, and Ron and his 12-year-old, Paul, had flown to Niagara Falls, New York for the funeral. The day after the interment, they went to see the Falls. They were looking up at the rush of water when, without a word—as if in illustration of the *Utne* article—a Japanese tourist had taken Paul by the shoulders, spun him around and, draping his arm over Paul's shoulders, posed for a snapshot.

"Who is that boy?" Ron imagined the friends and relative back in Japan asking. And the answer would be, "Oh, just a typical American peasant boy."

Ron had read another article in the *Key West Citizen*. Derek Hopkins, local businessman, wanted the island city to recruit more cruise ships. According to him, they were floating gold mines, disgorging oodles of Ugly Europeans who came ashore, dropped money, then floated away. That was fine for Derek Hopkins, thought Ron, but nobody was dropping any money on him.

Ron was a fifth grade teacher. Fifth grade was a good time of life, he believed. He made his students groan at his dumb jokes, then zinged them with something they'd have to wonder about.

"Sir?" the Japanese man repeated, edging closer to Ron's ladder, his wife's fingers on his shoulder. "Can you tell me where I find Ornesto Hemingway house?"

Ron climbed down, took a handkerchief from his back pocket, and wiped the sweat from his brow. The wife, he thought, looked like so many of the Japanese women, as if her flesh was composed of unbaked cookie dough.

"The Hemingway House?" Ron said slyly, acting on an impulse so spontaneous there was no time to examine it. "Why, this is it. Would you like a tour?"

He felt like one of his students pulling a prank.

"This Hemingway house?" the man said, looking up at Ron's peeling Conch house.

"Yes. This was Hemingway's very first house in Key West; not many people know about it. The tour is only ten dollars each."

He led them into a room which doubled as a living room and study. The man walked over to the big desk where Ron did so much of the preparation for his class.

"Hemingway did some of his best work right here," Ron said.

The man examined the battered machine on the desk, looked at Ron for a moment, then said, "Japanese computer. Hemingway very smart man."

Ron said, "Well, Hemingway was ahead of his time in many respects."

He showed them through the rest of the rooms. In his own bedroom he looked around at the paintings, weavings, and carved figures which decorated the walls, and wondered whether there was a single piece Hemingway would have selected.

"I ask big favor," the man said. "I always want to make love in Hemingway bed."

Ron looked at him. "Well, I don't know," he said. "After all, this is a National Historic Site. And if you're in here, doing that, I won't be able to show anyone else the house."

The Japanese man reached into his pocket and pulled out a bill. "Fifty dollah?" he said, extending it.

Ron was on the porch drinking a Bud when his wife pulled up at the curb. Watching her approach, Ron mused that everyone had a different walk—you could see them developing by the fifth grade—and Delia, in her female executive clothes, walked as if a stiff wind was pushing her forward. She bent down energetically to kiss him.

"Say Delia," he said, "don't go in our bedroom."

"Why not?"

"There's a couple of Japanese tourists having sex in our bed."

Delia threw back her head and laughed. She loved his sense of humor.

"I'm not joking," he began.

"How could you do that?" she berated him after he'd explained. She was very upset. "What kind of way is that to treat a visitor to your country?"

The Japanese couple finally emerged, looking very relaxed and satisfied. "We help ourself to Hemingway bath," said the wife shyly. "We hope okay."

"Listen," said Ron, fidgeting, "I don't know what got into me but, uh . . . I've played a little joke on you.

They looked at him with puzzled expressions, and he felt bad.

"You see, this isn't really . . ."

The man took a step towards him as if to share a secret.

"Hemingway great fiction writer," he said so that Ron had to bend forward to hear him. "I fiction writer too—big in Japan. I always want to make love to wife in Ornesto Hemingway bed."

He smiled, winked, bowed, then took his wife by the hand.

Watching them, go, Ron shook his head. He looked at the crisp fifty and the two tens in his hand, which he'd meant to return, and put them back in his pocket. Then he went back to pruning his neighbor's peach tree.

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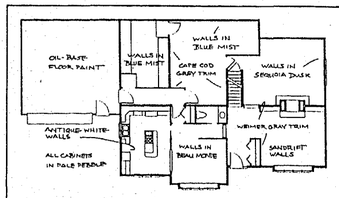

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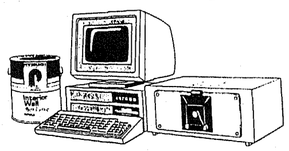

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Vol. XLIV, No. 3

By James Merrill

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A new age. Everything we dread.

Dread? It crows for joy in the manger.
Joy? The tree sparkles on which it will die.

James Merrill's many prizes include the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and, most recently, the prestigious Bobbitt Prize from the Library of Congress. Alfred Knopf Publishers are publishing Merrill's "Selected Poems" in May of this year.

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Gifts From The Kitchen

Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean the gift-giving needs to stop. In fact, gifts created at one's leisure in his or her very own kitchen "workshop" are appreciated year-round. Following are just a few of the simplest of recipes for edible treats. These are particularly appropriate for the month or so of cool weather Key Westers have in store for them.

Salted Pumpkin Seeds

2 cups pumpkin seeds
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
2 teaspoons salt or salt-free herb-and-spice blend

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spread seeds out in a baking pan. Mix butter with salt, drizzle it over the seeds, and toss well. Stirring occasionally, bake until seeds are golden brown and start to crack, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain on paper towels and toss with salt. Store in an airtight container or sealed plastic bags. Makes 2 cups.

Merry Cherries

These rum-soaked cherries need at least three weeks to marinate. Then serve them with toothpicks as a different way to finish off a feast or use them to garnish a special dessert. You can offer the remaining liqueur in chilled glasses or pour it over ice cream.

2 packages (10 ounces each) frozen unsweetened, loose-pack, pitted, dark cherries
2 cups sugar
1 bottle (a fifth) light rum

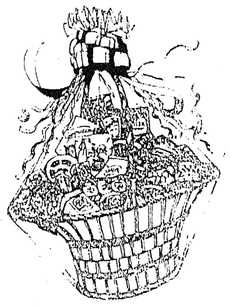
Place cherries in a large glass jar(s) with a tight-fitting lids(s). Pour sugar over cherries, add rum, and cover. Refrigerate, shaking occasionally until sugar dissolves, for at least 3 weeks. Makes about 2-1/2 cups cherries and 2-1/2 cups liqueur.

Classic Chex® Party Mix

When I was away at college, the mother of one of my roommates would ship off to us a huge can of this spicy mix. I never knew quite how she made it, but it was a great addition to our all-night bridge sessions. This recipe is almost straight from the cereal box, and it's good.

2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 teaspoon seasoned salt or salt-free herb-and-spice blend
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce (use the low-salt variety if desired)
4 cups mixed corn, rice, wheat Chex® or use all one kind
1/2 cup mixed nuts
1/2 cup pretzels.

Preheat over 250 degrees F. Melt butter in heavy pan over low heat. Remove and mix in salt and Worcestershire. Meanwhile, combine Chex®, nuts, and pretzels in a baking dish. Drizzle with butter mixture, stir well to coat, and bake about 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool on paper towels and store in airtight container or sealed plastic bags. Makes 5 cups.



Mom's Favorite Coffee Mix

Along about bedtime every night, my mother wends her way to the kitchen to heat some water for this soothing drink (she uses decaf in her mix). Then she retires with it to play a little Solitaire and listen to the local jazz station.

1/4 cup instant coffee granules
3 tablespoons instant nonfat dry milk
2 tablespoons sugar or to taste
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Combine ingredients and store in an airtight container. To use, bring 3/4 cup water to a boil for each serving. Place 1 tablespoon mix in each cup, add water, and stir. (I like to double this amount, omitting the sugar, and pour it into a large mug. Then I sweeten it with chocolate syrup or a scoop of vanilla or chocolate ice cream or frozen whipped topping.) Makes eight 3/4 servings.

Apple Butter

One of the nicest ways to cut down on high-fat butter and margarine spreads is to slather your fresh-baked muffins and breads with some spicy apple butter. Delicious butters can also be made with other fruits —peaches, apricots, pears, and plums, to mention a few. You could also add some blueberries to this recipe. You will need to have hot, sterilized jars ready.

1 gallon apple cider
4 quarts peeled, cored, quartered, full-flavored cooking apples, such as Jonathons, Winesaps or McIntosh
3 cups sugar
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice

In a large pot, boil cider until reduced to half. Working in two or three batches, add apples and cook over low heat until soft, several hours. Blend in sugar and spices, and, stirring often, cook until thick and no liquid separates from the butter when a spoonful is dropped on a plate. Divide among the hot, sterile jars and seal. Makes about 3 quarts.

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Great Granola

This crunchy granola makes a wonderful gift for many reasons—it's easy and inexpensive to make it's chockful of fiber and vitamins and minerals, and it can be varied in as many ways as it can be eaten. You can add chopped, dried fruits; substitute other nuts; try different spices. such as cardamom, anise, and grated vanilla bean; or change the honey to brown sugar, molasses, or maple syrup. You can eat granola out of hand or in a bowl with milk, yogurt, or fresh fruit juice. You can also use it to top ice cream; mix into fruit salads, applesauce, and rice pudding; or add it to muffin, bread, and cookie batters.

2 cups any combination of rolled oats, wheat flakes, rye flakes, and/or bran flakes
1/2 cup wheat germ
1/2 cup bran
3/4 cup any chopped raw nuts
1/4 cup raw sunflower seeds
1/4 cup raw sesame seeds
1/4 cup unsweetened flaked or grated coconut
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)
1/4 cup safflower or other bland vegetable oil
1/2 cup mild honey
1 cup fresh, grated apple or diced apricot
1/2 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Combine first 9 ingredients in large bowl. Gradually mix in oil and honey. Spread evenly over large baking sheet and, stirring often, toast 25 or 30 minutes. When crisp and golden, remove and cool. Then mix in fruit and raisins and cool completely. Store in airtight container. Makes about 6 cups.

Hot Chili-Pepper Oil with Garlic

Brush this sizzler over thick, crusty slices of toasted bread, add it to salad dressings, or shake it on sandwiches and popcorn.

2 cups extra-virgin olive oil
10 to 12 small red dried chili peppers (to make the oil hotter, crush some of these)
6 cloves garlic, peeled

Combine ingredients in heavy pan over low heat. When oil is hot (don't let it boil), remove and let stand at room temperature overnight. Discard garlic and pour into sterile decorative bottles. Tightly cork or cap. Makes 2 cups.

Fresh Herbal Vinegar

Among condiments, there really is nothing quite so disarmingly old-fashioned as a pretty bottle of vinegar flavored with herbs from a kitchen garden.

1 gallon cider vinegar
4 shallots, peeled and thinly sliced
1/4 cup fresh, chopped tarragon
3 tablespoon chopped parsley
2 or 3 sprigs each of thyme and rosemary
1/2 teaspoon whole black peppercorns

Place ingredients in bottles and let stand two weeks. Then strain vinegar through cheesecloth, pour into sterile decorative bottles, and tightly cork or cap. Makes about 1 gallon.

Pumpkin Pie Muffins

This scrumptious recipe is adapted from a delightful little book I have called Mostly Muffins *by Barbara Albright and Leslie Weiner. You can use it to make minibreads as well.*

2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup firmly packed dark-brown sugar
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
3/4 cup canned pumpkin
1/2 cup lightly salted butter or margarine, melted and cooled
1/4 cup buttermilk
2 eggs, lightly beaten
3 tablespoons molasses
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans or walnuts
3/4 cup chopped pitted dates

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease twelve 3 x 1-1/4 inch muffin cups. In a large bowl, stir together the dry ingredients (first nine). In another bowl, stir pumpkin with remaining wet ingredents (next five). Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add pumpkin mixture. Stir just to combine and then, with just a few strokes, stir in pecans and dates.

Spoon batter into muffin cups. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Transfer pan to a wire rack and cool 5 minutes. Then remove muffins to finish cooling on rack. When completely cooled, store in airtight container at room temperature. These freeze very well. Makes 12 muffins.

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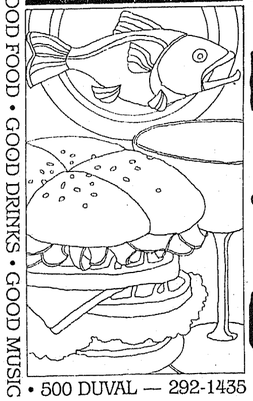

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Antonia's Restaurant, 15 Duval Street. Excellent Northern Italian cuisine in friendly, elegant atmosphere. Dinner served from 6 to 11 p.m, nightly. Visa, Mastercard. 294-6565.

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The Buttery, 1208 Simonton Street. Praised by *Gourmet, New York Times* and *Bon Appetit* as one of the great restaurants in South Florida. The Buttery is truly a must-stop for the gourmand in Key West. A complete bar and wine list complement the distinctive Buttery menu, with nightly specials. Open for dinner, nightly; reservations are suggested. 294-0717.

Café Marquesa, 600 Fleming Street on the corner of Simonton and Fleming Streets. Serving New World cuisine, and specializing in fresh seafood, grilled meats and homemade pastas and desserts. Reservations are recommended. 292-1244.

Camille's, 703 1/2 Duval Street. A local restaurant with the casual Key West touch, serving high-quality fare for breakfast and lunch. Daily specials. Entrees are reasonably priced, made of only the finest ingredients and cooked to order. The Sunday Brunch has become a tradition for many locals. Open daily, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 296-4811.

Conch Café, 1211 Duval Street. Charming sidewalk café serving home-cooked meals. Desserts, beer, wine, sundries, eat in or take out. Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Monday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. 294-7227.

Crab Shack, 908 Caroline Street across from Land's End Village. Fresh seafood served from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., daily. Peel-your-own spicy steamed shrimp every day. Widest variety of crab dishes on the island. We also cook your catch as you like it. For the landlubber, charbroiled steak and prime rib. Blue plate specials nightly. Dine indoors and out. 294-9658.

Dim Sim, 613 1/2 Duval Street in Key Lime Square. A gourmet Asian restaurant serving exotic Chinese stir-fries, Indian curries and Thai, Indonesian and Burmese specialties. Wine and sake bar. Open 6 to 11 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. 294-6230.

Dos Lobos, 6 Charles Street, just one-half block west of Duval. Real South-of-the-Border cooking. Tacos, chimichangas, enchiladas, burritos, fajitas, chili and much more. Good cooking, very reasonable prices, and patio dining. 293-0733.

El Loro Verde, 404 Southard Street. More than a Mexican restaurant, El Loro Verde presents innovative yet authentic variations of both Mexican and Caribbean dishes. Popular for its cafe´ atmosphere, El Loro Verde now features a full liquor bar in its new dining room. 296-7298.

Fiorini, 523 Eaton Street. One of Key West's oldest and most romantic restaurants. Fiorini's menu is unmistakably Italian with a hint of the tropics: yellowfin tuna *putanesca*, shrimp Diane, yellowtail in cucumber caviar cream sauce, fettucine with basil, walnuts, and garlic. And for dessert try a genuine cannoli made fresh by Mama Fiorini. Open for dinner 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday. 294-4720.

Flamingo Crossing, 1105 Duval Street. The locals' favorite dessert spot features freshly-made-daily ice creams, sorbets, honey yogurts, sundaes, shakes and all-fruit vitari. Also enjoy Florida Keys Finest Key Lime Pie in a tropical garden setting. Open daily from noon to 11 p.m. and midnight Friday and Saturday. 296-6124

Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Café, 500 Duval Street. Opens 11 a.m. for lunch, dinner, and late night rock and roll, starting at 10:30 p.m. Serving fresh seafood, meats, salads & Key West favorites: Conch chowder/fritters, squid rings and the famous Cheeseburger in Paradise. 292-1435.

Louie's Backyard, 700 Waddell on the Atlantic Ocean. Featuring international cuisine in a restaurant ranked among South Florida's best. Dining inside or outdoors on the water. Enjoy cocktails on the Afterdeck Bar. Open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. 294-1061 for dining reservations.

Mangrove Mama's, mile marker 20 on Sugarloaf Key. Featuring natural and local seafood served in an olde tyme Keys atmosphere. Dining inside in an old 1919 "Flagler building" or outside under the banana trees. Enjoy the wine bar with a large selection of wines by the glass. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For dining reservations and entertainment schedule, call 745-3030.

Mary's, 808 Duval. Offers delicious burgers—most notably the Mary Burger—in addition to other daily dinner, lunch and breakfast specials. Everything is fresh and made to order; beer and wine are available. Indoor and outdoor seating. Breakfast is served from 12 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open 24 hours. All major credit cards accepted. 296-7554.

Ocean Club, at the Reach Resort, Simonton at the beach. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily and a Sunday Brunch that is "without a doubt the best on the Island". Dine oceanfront or indoors. Visit our new piano lounge open Tuesday through Sunday. All major credit cards accepted. 296-5000.

Palm Grill, on the corner of Frances and Southard Streets. American Island cooking using fresh herbs, native seafood and the finest produce. Grilled meats, fish and vegetarian selections. Creative and affordable. Dinner 6 to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday Brunch 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday dinner 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.Visa/Mastercard. Reservations suggested. 296-1744.

Paradise Café, corner of Eaton and Grinnell Streets. Home of the famous island Monster Mix. Featuring the biggest sandwiches and the lowest beer prices in Key West. Open for breakfast and lunch. Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free delivery. 296-5001.

Rittenhouse Deli, Duval Square at Simonton Street. Serving breakfast, lunch, light entrees and desserts on our lovely deck. Open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Free parking and delivery. Call 292-8350 or fax your order to 292-8346.

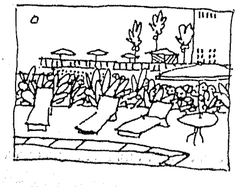
Rooftop Café, 310 Front Street, in the heart of old town offering rooftop and indoor seating. Breakfast 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily. Dinner until 11 p.m. Live entertainment weekends. 294-2042.

Rusty Anchor, 5th Avenue, Stock Island. Hosts Ramon and Patricia guarantee the freshest and finest seafood in the Florida Keys. All dishes are made to order and served in a friendly rustic setting, where Hemingway would feel at home. Whether shrimp, fish, lobster, stone crab claws or Ramon's famous conch steak, your order was probably caught the same day. Open for lunch and dinner. All major credit cards. 294-5369.

Savannah, 915 Duval Street. Fine Southern home cooking featuring dixie delectables like mouth-watering fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, fresh fish, and unbeatable mash potatoes. Dine in a grand old conch house or outside in a tropical garden setting. Open for dinner daily at 6:30 p.m. Shut Thursday. 296-6700.

South Beach Seafood & Raw Bar, on the beach at the ocean end of Duval Street. Fresh Key West Seafood, baby-back ribs, chicken, steak, oysters, clams, nightly specials. Serving beer and wine. Dine inside or outside on our beach deck . Open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. 294-2727.

Turtle Kraals, Land's End Village, foot of Margaret Street. Harbor view dining for lunch and dinner. Great hamburgers, seafood—check out the music. Visa/Mastercard. 294-2640.



Casualties

By Nicole Douglas

I want to write about Freddie Mercury. He's dead. What I write won't make much difference to him, but I need to tell the world that a little girl once loved a rock star who died in November of AIDS. I need to tell that lives are not the only things being lost in this war of epidemic infection. I need to tell of another casuality of war: my innocence, the casuality of my youth.

I had just driven home from Miami with my mother. My husband informed me when I returned that my best friend Suzanne had called and would be calling back. I felt, as I had all day, that something was wrong.

Freddie died this afternoon, she said.

I cried.

Suzanne and I talked then, crying, talking, talking of nothing but our loss and how screwed up our dreams had become after reality intervened. We laughed, too, laughed maybe in disbelief.

Freddie Mercury could not be dead.

He was alive, everywhere. In music, on the poster I hung behind the bedroom door so my husband wouldn't see it, in my books, in my memories from concerts past. Oh, and Suzanne, perhaps the living icon of our ten-year friendship that was planted by Queen in Queen lyrics and long-playing records and talking about how much we loved them. Especially Freddie. How we loved Freddie.

I cried that night in bed with my husband, who had little appreciation for the part Queen had played in my life. He was as sympathetic as he could be.

The next day I wore all black. Freddie was gone. The Killer had come for him. I'd watched it kill before, kill through my friends, family. The Killer would kill and kill again. A week later the girl who got it from the dentist was dead. The Killer was making the rounds. Who would be spared? Who knew enough to be spared?

I thought I wouldn't be able to play his music again, but I did. Loudly, I sang every word. I called Suzanne, and we sang together. We sang for Freddie. For the nameless sentenced to death, whom we didn't know; who were with us, every day. We sang for ourselves, the piece of mortality that we knew was present in us, that would take us surely as it had taken Freddie Mercury. We were human and just as fragile.

I'd been struggling with instant adulthood. I was married, out of school, poised on the brink of my life. It looked awful from where I stood. Tiresome. I'd made so many mistakes already.

Now this. The end of pop idols and posters and fantasies about meeting Freddie and having him fall madly in love with me. The end of concerts, and sneaking backstage with Suzanne, and falling in momentary love with all the musicians who aspired to be. The end of fan mail and fan clubs and various ploys to fly to London to meet Queen. It was the end of security: my father on the couch reading the *Wall Street Journal*, my mother in her chair with *Architectural Digest*.

When my parents divorced I came to Key West and stood there waiting for that secret something that would call to my spirit the way childhood love had. The way labors of "Freddie Fantasies" were better than reality: I could be rich and thin and dynamic and fly all over the world with Freddie and Queen and have his adoration as he had the adoration of millions of fans. I was his little buttercup.

Until someone real called me buttercup, and I forgot all about Freddie and our made up wonderful love, and settled down for real.

Real love, was hard. My husband was a musician, like Freddie, a survivor of the sixties, who had barely lived to tell. We fought, I cried, the romance was only a small part it. We didn't travel around the world, he didn't buy me jewels and designer clothes to my heart's content. He wasn't perfect. He wasn't Freddie Mercury. He was mine. I was his buttercup.

Suzanne and I talked about paying bills and loving real men. We complained. We were tired. We were bored. We weren't children anymore.

I've got rent I can't pay, bills to my armpits, and a job hunt which lasted the past seven weeks. I've been winding down to Burger King, hoping something might come along.

My husband is depressed, my family is split at the seams, my father remarried in Connecticut, my mother is wooing a pilot who flies in for Christmas and flies out, head still spinning from the eggnog. My brother in Miami drinks too much and suffers for this. My father likes to pretend that neither of us exist. This is the second Christmas I don't see my best friend, Suzanne.

I'd like to start singing those songs now. From the first album to last, amid tears and wounds fresh from childhood, I'd like to sing. Maybe singing is all there's left.

I see a million more Freddies to come, a million more marches to the death drum, a million times the Killer will come in and lay his sentences upon the unsuspecting, even the innocent. They will gather in their weakness and be made strong, for a moment, by the singing of songs that are Freddie Mercury's legacy and their legacy, for he is among them, and they are among us, too. Casualties, all.

Truth and innocence be damned. Freddie Mercury is dead.

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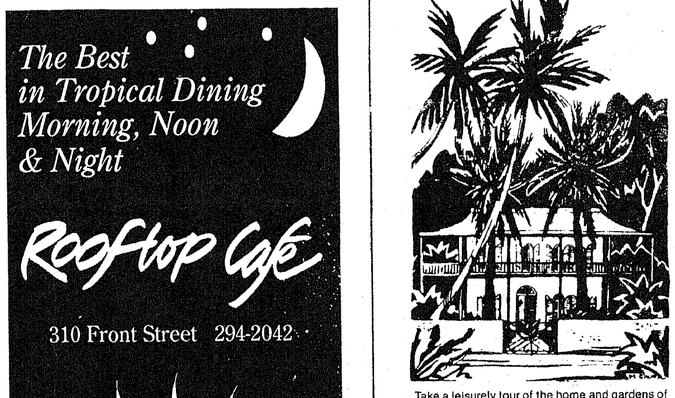

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Solares Almanac
JANUARY 17 - 29

By John Cole

The full moon that will rise over Key West on Sunday evening, the 19th, will bring with it extreme tides that are surely one of the most dramatic natural acts of the final weeks of this first month of 1992. Starting on the 17th, minus-low tides will strike well before dawn. By the 19th between three and four in the morning, low tides in Key West Harbor will be at least a half-foot lower than normal mean tides. And if the wind cooperates, flats that are exposed no more than once or twice a year will be bone dry.

When the lunar pendulum swings the other way, flood tides will be even more memorable. Around midnight, for the four days that begin on the 17th, high waters will reach more than a foot above their generally well behaved averages. Skippers, sea skiers and anyone reckless enough to contemplate a swim should be duly prepared for the rush of waters past the Mallory Dock and other piers and wharves along Key West's western shores.

If pushed by northwest gales—not uncommon in late January—the tidal extremes will be stretched to remarkable limits. Based on past averages, the stage could well be set; in 1987 January gusts from the northwest topped 45 mph.

As the month wanes, tides gentle and winds should pull more towards the southeast and south, which is where they will tend to stay during February. Nevertheless, the arrival of a blustery cold front is a regular late January event that chills inshore waters enough to numb a snook's metabolic mechanism. This, and not the fish's spawning preferences, is the reason state fishery regulators ban angling for snook during January and February. White Street Pier fisherfolk on foot—who often make the snook their favorite quarry—should take proper note of the protective prohibition.

Sharks . . . 50 or 60 of the awesome, dark shapes, lying motionless as stone.

On the flats and in the backcountry, the same chills that still the snook bring new arrivals to challenge shallow-water anglers. Barracuda, those welcome winter visitors drawn to the shallows where they can take their ease and soak up the sun, are tracked by black-tip and lemon sharks. As water temperatures drop and more and more barracuda seek their solar solace, the shark migration mounts.

There are those calm late January mornings when certain flats, especially those with white, marl bottoms, are resting places for great schools of sharks. Fifty or 60 of the awesome, dark shapes lying as motionless as stone in a foot or so of transluscent backcountry shallows is a sight nobody, angler or not, is likely to forget. You'll have to make the search on your own, however; one heedless jet skier can scatter the pageant in a few thoughtless moments.

Just as the late January sun warms the silver 'cuda, so it also shines a bit longer each day. Sunset, which occurs at two minutes past six on the 17th, will be precisely ten minutes later on the 31st. And I mean precisely. There are now in my possession sunrise and sunset times for Key West as compiled by Captain C.G. Christie, USN, superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory.

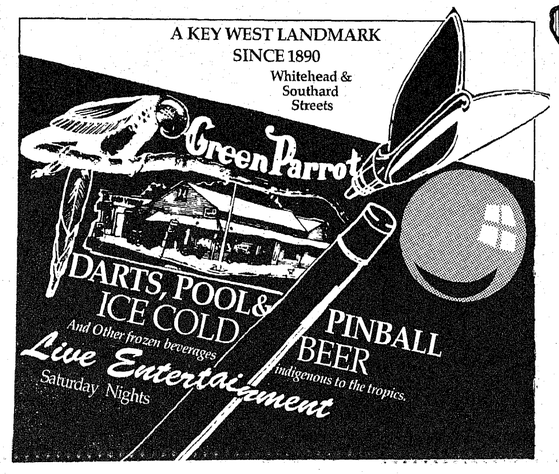
"I certify," the Captain writes, "that these data are the result of accurate and true computation by the Nautical Almanac Office."

(So much for the recent flap over my sunset times; consider it resolved. Sunrise, by the way, will recede from 7:13 on the 17th to 7:10 on the 31st.)

And under the heading "Incidental Intelligence," this almanac should remind you that it was just 80 years ago at 10:43 in the morning of January 21 that the first steam engine owned by Henry Flagler's Overseas Railway chuffed into the new yards at Trumbo Point. The engine pulled a six-car train, including the *Rambler*, Henry's private car. Stepping to the platform, the old gentleman looked out at the assembled, cheering Key West crowd and said to his aides, "Now my dream is fulfilled."

Certainly no single human event altered the natural balances of the Keys more than that engine's arrival. The railroad that later became a highway changed the Keys forever. It's a development process that continues to accelerate and, the evidence indicates, continues to put the region's natural presences increasingly in jeopardy.

The Almanac is written for Solares Hill by John Cole, with much help from Capt. Bill Somers of the charter sloop Relevance, author and publisher of Key West tide tables; flats fishing guide Capt. Gil Drake; the Florida Keys Audubon Society, the meteorologists at the Key West National Weather Service offices at the Key West Airport; the National Marine Fisheries Service; Thomas J. Wilmers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist; flats fishing guide Capt. Jeffery Cardenas; and others who generously provide insight and information. Any errors, however, are the author's and his alone.



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CALENDAR • JAN. 16 - 29

Cultural

1/16-2/9 • *Prelude to a Kiss* directed by Joy Hawkins at the Red Barn Theatre. Call 296-9911 for ticket information.

1/16-1/19 • *Baby with the Bathwater* directed by George Gugleotti at the Waterfront Playhouse. For reservations, call 294-5015.

1/16-1/19 • Eighth Annual Florida Keys Renaissance Faire in Marathon, featuring jousting tournaments, human chess games and bountiful food and drink. For more information, call 1-800-FLA-KEYS.

1/17 • Father and Son Piano Concert featuring Joseph and Michael Gurt at 8 p.m. at Old Stone Methodist Church. Free to the community with donations being accepted. Sponsored by the Patrons of Bach. Call 296-9151.

1/18 • Baritone William Brockmeier and pianist Jacqueline Rosenblatt in concert 8 p.m. at the Casa Gato, 1209 Virginia Street. All proceeds benefit the Share School of Music. For ticket information, call 294-5299.

1/22 • *Made in Key West '92* directed by David Spangler at the new Red Barn Annex, 541 Eaton Street (formerly First Baptist Church). Call 296-9911.

1/23 • *Kiss Me, Kate* by Cole Porter 8 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Call 296-9081, ext. 326.

1/26 • Casa Gato Impromptu Concert 8 p.m. featuring oboist John Dee, violinist Pamela McConnell and pianist Toby Blumenthal. For information, call 296-7744.

1/26 • Concert in the Park 2:30 p.m. at Bayview Park, featuring Bert Lee, Christine Naughton, Paula Jo Chitty, Maggie Becker, Quint Lange, François Gehin and Rick Peterson.

Miscellaneous

1/16-1/18 • Volunteer Appreciation Week held by the Monroe Organizationai Volunteer Evolvement network. Call J.J. Brennan at 852-4246 for a complete schedule of events.

1/17-1/19 • Discover Bocce '92 featuring a Southernmost Bocce League International Tournament. For a complete schedule of events, call 293-9800.

1/18 • Yard Sale 10 a.m. at the Curry Mansion, 511 Caroline Street. All proceeds benefit the Hospice of the Florida Keys. Sales item donations are being taken and are tax-deductible. For more information, call 294-5349.

1/18-1/22 • Key West Regatta featuring a fleet of boats expected to converge off Key West for four days of competition. For more information, call 294-2587.

1/19 • Grace Awakening Workshop 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Unity of the Keys, 3424 Duck Avenue. Featuring Rev. Debbie Tyson. Call 296-5888.

1/19-1/24 • *Yachting Magazine's* Yachting Race Week races and events scheduled each day. For more information, call 294-2587.

1/23 • Victim Advocates Community Open House 6 p.m. at the Holiday Isle in Islamorada. Call 292-3400.

1/25 • All-American Chili Cook-Off in Islamorada. For more information, call (305) 664-2321.

1/25 • Sixth Annual Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner featuring noted California legislator Tom Nolan, 6:30 p.m. at the Pier House's Caribbean Spa. For reservation information, call 294-5135.

1/25-1/26 • Art Explo 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Truman Annex at Caroline and Whitehead. Featuring jewelry, crafts, furniture, clothing and more.

1/27 • Dealing with Upset Citizens and the Public Workshop presented by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Leadership Development from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Casa Marina, 1500 Reynolds Street. For registration information, call (402) 472-2175.

Meetings

1/16 • Key West Planning Board Meeting 5 to 10 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/16 • South Florida Water Management District Meeting 8:30 a.m. in West Palm Beach. Call (407) 686-8800.

1/21 • Public Library Meeting 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/21 • City Commission Meeting 3:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/22 • TDC Meeting 10 a.m. at the Hyatt in Key West. Call 296-2228.

1/23 • MOVE (Monroe Organizational Volunteer Evolvement) Meeting 2 to 3 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building in Tavernier. For more information, J.J. Brennan-Sorensen at 852-4246.

1/23 • Planning Commission Meeting 10 a.m. at the Key Largo Library. Call 292-4422.

1/23 • Code Enforcement Board Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/25 • League of Women Voters Health Care Study Report noon at the Holiday Inn Beachside.

1/27 • Public Library Meeting 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/27 • HARC Meeting 5 p.m. at the Old City Hall. Call 292-8100.

1/28 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. at Key Colony Beach in Marathon. Call 292-4422.

1/28 • District 5 Meeting 9 a.m. at the Sheraton Board Room in Key Largo. Call 296-2228.

1/29 • Board of County Commissioners Meeting 9 a.m. at Key Colony Beach in Marathon. Call 292-4422.

1/29 • Development Review Committee 1 p.m. at the Marathon Public Library. Call 292-4422.

Ongoing

Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 p.m. at Holy Innocents Church, 901 Flagler Avenue. Call 294-8912.

"A Course in Miracles" study group meets at the Crystal Loft, mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine, every Monday at 7 p.m. Call 872-9390.

AIDS Help needs volunteers to assist in the office, as well as to be buddies to people with AIDS. Call Steve Smith, director of volunteers, at 296-6196.

AIDS Help Support Group Meetings for PWAs, ARC, HIV+, familes, friends and lovers are held each Thursday at 6 p.m. at 2700 Flagler Avenue. Call 296-6196.

Anchors Aweigh Club, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings daily at 404 Virginia Street. Call 296-7888.

Audubon Society of the Keys meets the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at Indigenous Park. Call 294-4927.

Blood Pressure Screenings (free) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the registration area of the emergency room of South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8118.

Blue Moon Trader Art & Craft Market every Saturday at mile marker 29.7 on Big Pine. Artists from throughout the Keys display and sell their wares. Call 872-8864.

Breast Cancer Support Group holds meetings at South Miami Hospital the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Call (305) 662-9611.

Breezeswept Beach Estates Civic Association holds meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Youth Center of Big Pine Key Methodist Church. Call 872-2861.

Cancer Support Group for Family Members meets Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8196.

Cancer Support Group for Cancer Patients meets Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8196.

Card & Game Night, Senior Citizens Center, Big Pine Key. Call 745-3698.

Children Problem Solving Group for ages 8 to12 years meets Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Childbirth Classes begin monthly at Key West and Big Pine locations. Sponsored by The March of Dimes and FKCC. The course is affordable for everyone. Call 296-9081, ext. 282.

Codependency Group meets Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Community Learning Center at Harris School offers Adult Basic Education, Job Preparation and Placement, English as a Second Language, GED Preparation, Vocational Evaluation and Counseling, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free to eligible applicants. Call 292-6762.

Community Education Series dealing with the disease of addiction meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Tower Building of South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-8118.

Community Guitar Orchestra meets in Key West at the Share School of Music on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Big Pine Group meets at the United Methodist Church on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.mAll

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guitar players are invited. Call 294-5299.

Depression and Manic-Depression Group meets 3 to 4:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Eating Disorder Group meets every Friday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Early Recovery Group meets Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Florida Right to Life meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Key West Baptist Temple, 5727 Second Avenue, Stock Island. Call Patti Baldwin at 296-7337.

Guardianship of Monroe County helps disabled adults and elderly residents in decision-making. To volunteer or for more information call Elizabeth Covino at HRS, 292-6728; Betty Cambell at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, 294-5531; or Liz Kern at Hospice, 294-8812.

Helpline the 24-hour Monroe County Crisis Intervention telephone service needs volunteers to man the phones. Training will be provided. Call 292-8445.

Island Wellness at 530 Simonton Street, offers a variety of regularly scheduled coursesss and activities. Monday: Daily R & R at noon; Tuesday: T'ai Chi Ch'uan at 10 a.m. and Daily R & R at noon; Wednesday: Daily R & R ; Thursday: T'ai Chi Ch'uan at 10 a.m. and Daily R&R at noon; Friday: Daily R& R at noon; Sundays: alternating schedule. New: Kripalu Yoga classes with Tony Luttenberger, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 to 11 a.m. and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:45 to 7 p.m. Call 296-7353 for details.

Just Say No supper club meets Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. 292-8248.

Key West Garden Club Ramble Work Sessions held every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until noon at the Garden Center (West Martello Tower). The public is invited. Call 294-3210.

Key West Maritime Historical Society meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Garrison Bight Marina. Memberships cost $10 per year for individuals and $25 per year for families. Call Capt. John Duke at 872-3536.

Key West Sports Car Club meets at 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of every month in the back room of Wag's restaurant on N. Roosevelt Blvd.

Kiss AA (gay preferred) meets every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 p.m., plus every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the rear of Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-8912.

Kripalu Yoga Classes with Tony Luttenberger at AIDS, Help, Inc. Free to HIV-positive individuals For more information, call Jared at 294-6968.

La Leche League of Big Pine Key meets the second Monday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Big Pine Baptist Church. Call Joanne at 872-2861 for meeting information.

Last Resort Codependents Anonymous meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the rear of Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street. Call 294-8912.

The Law and You with Attorney Fred Butner, "Live from Key West." Wednesdays from 8 to 9 a.m. Radio debates. Guests include judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers and lawmakers. Broadcast on AM 1600 WKWF Talk Radio. Number to call in during broadcast: 294-1600.

Literacy Volunteers of America meets 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month and offers volunteer training programs as well as workshops. LVA also offers one-to-one tutoring for adults in basic reading and math, GED preparation, or English as a second language. Call 294-4352.

Literacy Volunteers of Monroe County is seeking volunteers to help in working with the media and in teaching others to read. Students are also needed. Call Lisa Snyder at 294-4352.

Lighthouse Program, 5825 Jr. College Road, Key West offers drug and alcohol rehabilitative services for adolescents (age 13 to 17)—individual and group counseling, education, prevention, tutoring, vocational, day treatment and outpatient services. Call 294-5237.

Lower Keys Friends of Animals helps animals that are victims of misfortune. For membership information call 296-8682 or 296-3926.

Marine Archaeology Expedition. Third Sunday of the month. Each session focuses on wrecks and the coral reef environment. Membership fee goes torward seminar and monthly newsletter. Call 800-468-3255.

Meditation and Relaxation Support Group for Oncology Patients meets the second Tuesday of every month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the 6th floor family lounge of the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 669-0400.

Monroe County Public Library, Fleming Street, offers preschool story hour on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.; Saturday movies 10 a.m. 294-8488.

Monroe County District School Board Meeting is held the second Monday of each month in the board room of the Administration Building, 242 White Street. Call 296-6523.

PROCLAMATION: County mayor Wilhelmina Harvey (center) proclaims January 12 through 18 Volunteer Appreciation Week, while J.J. Brennan (left) and Christine Smith look on.

Mulch for Gardening is free to anyone who wants it. Provided by City Electric System, the mulch pile is located on Atlantic Boulevard at the intersection with Stevens Avenue.

Old Island Harmony Barbershop Chorus, Old Stone Church, Key West, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Open Poetry Reading meets the first Sunday of the month. Bring original work only. Also prose, music, dance; listen or perform. Free, refreshments served. 296-0785 or 294-1848.

Ovarian Cancer Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-7146.

Overeaters Anonymous meets in the chapel at DePoo Hospital Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8 p.m. Use emergency room entrance. Call Sharon 296-8802 or Patti at 745-2033.

Pool & Dart Tournament, Big Pine Moose Lodge, Wednesdays. Call 872-9313.

Pool and Dart Tournament at Stick & Stein in Key Plaza. Blind Draw Tournament every Saturday at 8 p.m. Eight ball every Thursday at 8 p.m. Nine ball every Sunday at 8 p.m.

Prenatal and Postnatal Exercise Classes are held Monday through Saturday from 10:45 to 12:15 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. at the South Miami Hospital. Call (305) 662-5335.

Preschool Story Hour for 4 and 5 year olds, 9:30 a.m. every Thursday at The Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 292-3595.

Problem Solving Group meets Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. No charge but referral required. Call 292-6843.

Problem Solving for Teenagers Group meets Tuesdays 4 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843

PWA's Living Room, a support group for PWA's, HIV +, friends and family, is held every Monday night at 5:30 p.m. at 816 Fleming Street, Suite 2. Call 294-5332.

Quaker Worship Meetings every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the garden in the rear of 618 Grinnell Street. For more information, call Sheridan Crumlish at 294-1523.

Quality Time—Parenting News for the Keys, a half-hour television talk show focusing on family issues presented by MOMS inc. on TCI Channel 5 Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 294-4837.

Recycling Drop Off Center, located on Stock Island, is open daily. Accepting clean, separated glass, newspaper, aluminum and plastic. Call 292-4433.

Schizophrenia Support Group meets alternate Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Small Business Counseling third Friday of each month at Barnett Bank of the Keys, Tavernier. To make an appointment, call 352-2661. Counselors are members of SCORE.

Stress and Anxiety Management Group meets every Tuesday 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Survivors of Incest Anonymous meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the rear of the Mental Health Center. For details call 296-4357.

Sweet Adelines, Presbyterian Kirk of the Keys, Marathon, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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$16,000 RAISED: Last month's AIDS Help Benefit Dinner, which was hosted by Antonia's Restaurant, was the restaurant's sixth and most successful benefit. Pictured (from left) are Philip Smith, Antonia Berto and Ed Seebol.

T'ai Chi Chu'an Exercise Class, instructed by Will Jones, is a "soft" form of physical conditioning. Classes are at 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at Island Wellness.

Toddler Story Time for 2 and 3 year olds 9:30 every Friday at The Monroe County Library, 700 Fleming Street. Call 292-3595.

Transportation Program, available to those over 60 years old, weekdays 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In Key West call 294-8468; Middle Keys call 743-9089; Upper Keys call 852-3204.

Writers' Walk, about one mile, takes place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The cost is $10. Meet at the Hemingway House, 907 Whitehead Street. For reservation/ticket information call 745-3640.

Women's Issues Group meets Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the Mental Health Care Center. Call 292-6843.

Entertainment

Answer Café • Duval Square, corner of Duval and Virginia Streets. Call 296-3371.

Beach Club Bar • The Pier House, 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

The Bull & Whistle Bar • Corner of Duval and Caroline Streets. Happy Hour at The Whistle, 5 to 9 p.m. daily.

Captain Hornblower's • 300 Front Street. Jazz on the patio every night. Call 294-4922.

Captain Tony's Saloon • 428 Greene Street. Call 294-1838.

Conchabamba • 618 Duval Street-rear. *Bruce Kirle* on piano and *Bonnie Donn* singing tunes from the 40's. Call for schedule 294-7787.

Coconuts Comedy Club • The Top at La Concha at 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.

Crazy Daizy's at La Concha • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.

Emma's Late Night • The Reach at Simonton and the beach. Call 294-3474.

Flagler's at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.

Full Moon Saloon • 1202 Simonton Street. Call 294-9090.

Green Parrot • 601 Whitehead. Call 296-6133.

Harbour Light's Barrelhead Bar • Garrison Bight Marina. Call 294-9343.

Havana Docks Late Night • The Pier House, 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

Havana Docks Sunset Deck • The Pier House, 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

Hog's Breath Saloon • 400 Front Street. Nightly entertainment from sunset until 2 a.m. No cover charge. Call 296-4222.

Islander Restaurant • 528 Front Street. Call 292-7659.

Mangrove Mama's • MM 20 Sugarloaf Key. *Tim McAlpine* and *Ron Somner* jazz dinner every Friday night from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. *Sam Anderson* on guitar every Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Island dancing with *The Survivors* on the last Sunday of every month. Call 745-3030.

Margaritaville Café • 500 Duval Street. Live entertainment. Call 292-1435.

Martha's • S. Roosevelt Blvd (A1A). Call 294-3466.

Memory Lane • The Econolodge 2820 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5511.

Nick's Coastal Café • Hyatt Key West 601 Front Street. *Rick Steffen* acoustic guitar and island music. Tues. to Sat. 7 to 11 p.m.

Nightfall • The Reach at Simonton and the Beach. Call 296-5000.

Pirate's Den • 300 Front Street. Adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Peek A Boo Lounge • 300 Southard Street. Live adult entertainment nightly, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Call 294-0959.

Poinciana Lounge • 3432 Duck Avenue. Call 294-6800.

The Quay • 12 Duval Street. Call 294-4446.

Ramada Inn Top O'Spray • 3420 N. Roosevelt Boulevard. Call 294-5541.

Rooftop Café • 310 Front Street. Call 294-2042.

Schooner Wharf • 202 William Street. Call 292-9520.

Sloppy Joe's • Corner of Duval and Greene Streets. Entertainment beginning daily at 2 p.m. Call 294-5717.

Square One Restaurant • Duval Square. *Joe Lowe* on piano Thursday-Saturday evenings. Call 296-4300.

Stephen's Bayside Café • 1970 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Call 294-5066.

Sun Sun Pavilion at The Casa Marina • 1500 Reynolds Street. Call 296-3535.

The Terrace • 1125 Duval Street. Pianist and vocalist *Larry Smith* Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday brunches with *Larry Smith* and *Lisa Edwards*, noon to 3 p.m. Call 294-7300.

The Top at La Concha • 430 Duval Street. Call 296-2991.

Turtle Kraals at Lands End Marina • 1 Lands End Village. Call 294-2640.

Two Friends Patio Restaurant • 512 Front Street. Call 296-9212.

Viva Zapata • 903 Duval Street. Call 296-3138.

The Wine Galley • The Pier House at 1 Duval Street. Call 296-4600.

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Classical Concert 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Night Club Jazz With Simon Hendrix 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The Key Lite Jazz Show 9 p.m. - On

.....Gary Branson's Key Lime Breakfast Show.....
Trivia , News, Light Adult Music

..... Bruce Peterson In The Afternoon.....

.....The KEY 93 Suppertime Symphony 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.....

.....The Key Lite Jazz Show 8 p.m. - On.....

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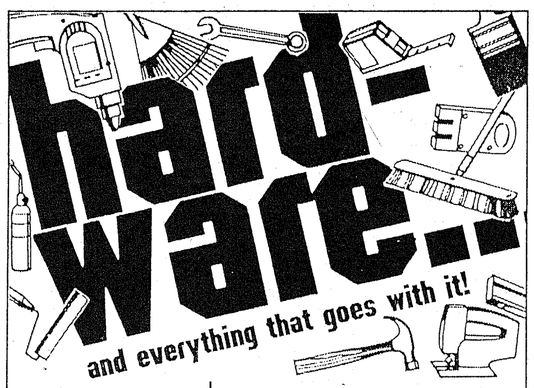
The Night Club Jazz Show With Simon Hendrix 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The Key Lite Jazz Show 9 p.m. - On



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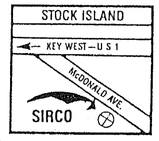

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Shrimp Cocktail	7.50

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Marinated Conch Salad	5.25
Crab & Avocado Salad	6.50
Shrimp Salad	6.25
Tropical Chicken Salad	4.75
Fresh Fruit Plate	5.50
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Shrimp Salad Sandwich	4.75
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